

NLBMDA E-Update, Green Update, Workplace Safety Update, and Energy Efficiency E-Update

NEWS AND INSIGHTS FOR THE LUMBER AND BUILDING MATERIAL INDUSTRY

The **National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association (NLBMDA)** represents operators of lumber yards and component plants that serve home builders, subcontractors, general contractors and consumers in the construction, repair and remodeling of residential and commercial structures. NLBMDA *E-Update*, *Green Update*, *Workplace Safety Update*, and *Energy Efficiency E-Update* deliver vital news and business intelligence to industry professionals every week.



NLBMDA
NATIONAL LUMBER AND BUILDING MATERIAL DEALERS ASSOCIATION

E-Update

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June 26, 2017

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Senate Republicans Release Health Care Reform Proposal

Senate Republican Leadership released its own health care reform proposal, the Better Care Reconciliation Act, after weeks of closed-door negotiations. The announcement comes as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) wants the Senate to vote on health care reform legislation by the end of next week. The Senate bill is similar to the American Health Care Act (H.R. 1628), which passed in May in the House of Representatives and would make major changes to the nation's health care system. President Donald Trump has said the final Senate bill will be "very good."

A significant difference between the House and Senate versions concerns the use of tax credits to help individuals and families pay for health insurance. The Senate version adjusts the tax credit amount based on income and geography much like it is currently under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). In contrast, tax credits in the House version are less generous and based strictly on age.

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NLBMDA Praises Reintroduction of Resilient Federal Forests Act

The National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association praises the introduction yesterday of the Resilient Federal Forests Act by (H.R. 2936) Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR). The legislation helps protect the national forest system by implementing best practices intended to lessen the threat of wildfires. Original cosponsors for the bipartisan bill include Reps. Raul Labrador (R-ID), Tom McClintock (R-CA), Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), Rick Nolan (D-MN), Collin Peterson (D-MN), and Scott Tipton (R-CO).

Rep. Westerman introduced the legislation during the previous Congress in 2015, where it passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 262-167 with support from 21 Democrats who crossed the aisle to support the bill.

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NLBMDA Asks Members to Contact Lawmakers to Preserve the Mortgage Interest Deduction

NLBMDA urges its members to take action by contacting their Representative and Senators and asking them to preserve the mortgage interest deduction and its critical role in American housing policy. As tax reform discussions pick up in Washington, the preservation of this tax incentive is important to the continued strength and growth in residential construction.

The mortgage interest deduction has been part of the tax code since its inception in 1913 and is the cornerstone of American housing policy. Homeowners do not expect to lose their mortgage interest deduction, and prospective buyers anticipate taking the deduction. Changing "the rules of the game" would have a significant impact on the housing market in terms of owner and buyer behavior.

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Green Update: 6,590

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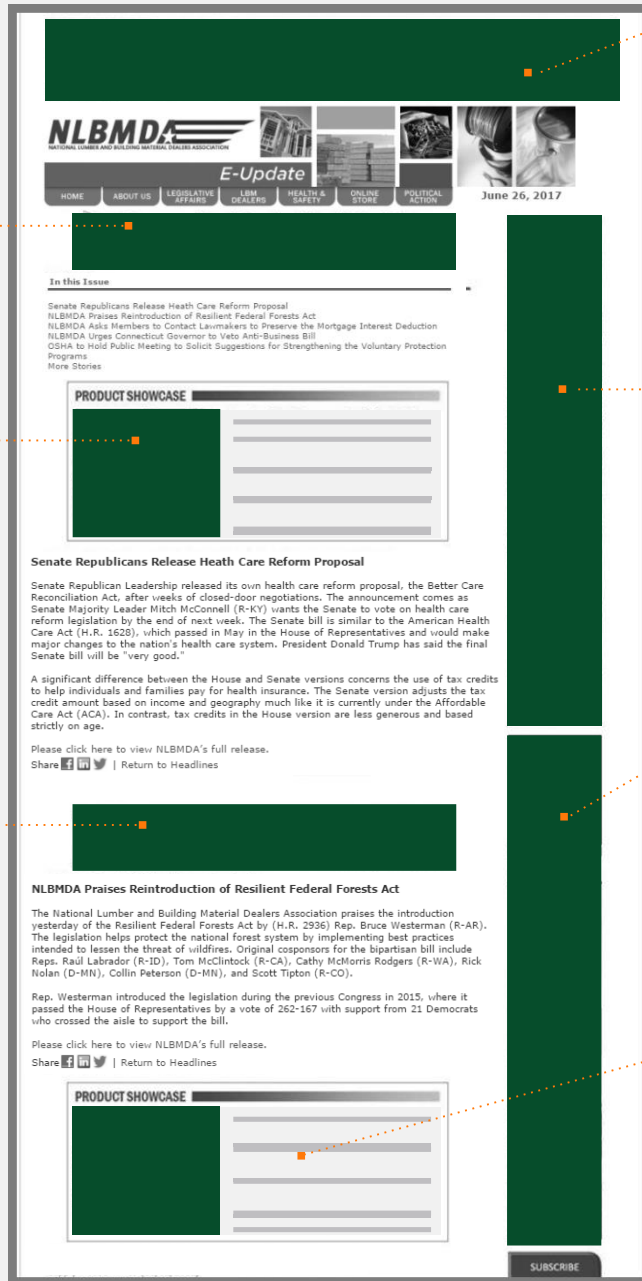
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