

1. Met yesterday with the FL Homebuilder Association lobbyists. They will have a bill filed to prohibit sprinklers from being mandated in new homes and townhouses. They will be aggressive. I have a teleconference call Wednesday and expect to close on funding to hire another lobbyist to assist. The wood products industry has agreed to support the homebuilders. This takes out the FFMIA lobbyist as she has a conflict representing opposing groups on this issue. We have some on the Florida Board who knows wood product people - they need to be advised to hear our side of the story and rethink their path as the lightweight construction material will be one of our strong argue points. The manufactured housing industry has not committed. We need ABC to support us - anyone who is active in ABC - we need the word to come to their lobbyist to support fire sprinklers. The bill sponsors are not known. Recovery in today's economy will be one of the FHBA argue points.

2. The High-Rise retrofit report requested by the Governor was reported this afternoon to the Senate Government Regulation Committee. The Chair of this committee, Senator Jones from the Tampa area, was also the sponsor of bill that we got vetoed. After the report was presented, there were no questions or comments from anyone. Not so on other reports presented before this committee as Senators asked many questions and detailed a future path on those issues. The condo lobbyists were there in force but said nothing??? The other issues lost in the veto - insurance related - is tenfold more important to them than the sprinkler issue. Go get the market while it is still available!!!!