



**HOME BUILDERS & REMODELERS ASSOCIATION  
OF CONNECTICUT, INC.**

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*Your Home  
Is Our  
Business*

**When talking with legislators, remember:**

- Legislators do listen to their constituents (i.e., you) and try to make the best decisions possible. If you don't make your views heard, then they'll make decisions based on the views of others and their own experiences.
- Lawmakers may know little about you and your concerns on bills before the legislature.
- They may have formed no opinions at all and may have taken no position on bills of concern to you.
- Express the HBRA's position on a bill in terms of your own personal experience. That helps to illustrate the personal side of the effect on your business.
- Ask the legislator what can be done to address your concern. Let the lawmaker talk.
- Do not overstate your concern. Do not say things like, "This bill will drive me out of business!" or "We need this bill to survive!" You'll lose your credibility. But do request the legislator's support of your position!
- Do not challenge or threaten any legislator. It's OK to attack a bill or one of its provisions, or an argument for or against a bill, but don't attack the person. Most legislators enjoy the independence of their office and may vote against you to prove it.
- Thank the legislator for taking the time to speak with you. If they have questions you cannot answer, refer them to the HBRA of Connecticut's Chief Executive Officer, Bill Ethier, or promise to get back to them with an answer (and then do so within a day, or two at the most).

***Vision: "Building CT's Economy, Communities and Better Lives One Home at a Time."  
Mission: "Using Effective Advocacy and New Knowledge to Solve our Member's Problems."***