



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

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*Your Home  
Is Our  
Business*

March 8, 2018

To: Senators Gomes and Miner, and Representative Porter, Co-Chairs  
Representative Bocchino, Ranking Member  
Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee

From: Bill Ethier, CAE, Chief Executive Officer

Re: **SB 1, AAC Paid Family & Medical Leave**  
**SB 15, AAC Fair and Equal Pay for Equal Work**  
**HB 5043, AA Promoting a Fair, Civil and Harassment-Free Workplace**  
**HB 5044, AAC Fair Treatment of Sick Workers**  
**HB 5386, AAC Various Pay Equity and Fairness Matters**  
**HB 5387, AAC Paid Family and Medical Leave**  
**HB 5388, AAC a Fair Minimum Wage**

The HBRA of Connecticut is a professional trade association with about eight hundred (800) member firms statewide employing tens of thousands of CT's citizens. Our members, all small businesses, are residential and commercial builders, land developers, remodelers, general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and those businesses and professionals that provide services to our diverse industry as well as directly to consumers. We build between 70% to 80% of all new homes and apartments in the state each year and engage in countless home remodeling projects.

**We have read through the testimony of CBIA (CT Business & Industry Association) and want to add the voice of our 800 members to CBIA's position.** CT continues to suffer from a prolonged, depressed housing market. Unlike most of the rest of the nation, housing has yet to recover from the economic crash.

**See the housing permit chart attached to our testimony.** Our industry is a barometer of what is going on in the larger economy. Economists will tell you that housing leads economies into and out of recessions. The permit chart is more proof of this well-known fact. Permits began to decline in 2006, two years before the financial markets crashed in 2008. This permit decline was nationwide. But, here we are still bouncing along the bottom.

Please do not place any more cost burdens on CT's businesses. Please rethink the direction that some of these bills, while well-intentioned, will send CT and its households.

Please add our voice in support of CBIA's positions on these Labor Committee bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

**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"**

## Home Building's Economic Impact in Connecticut!

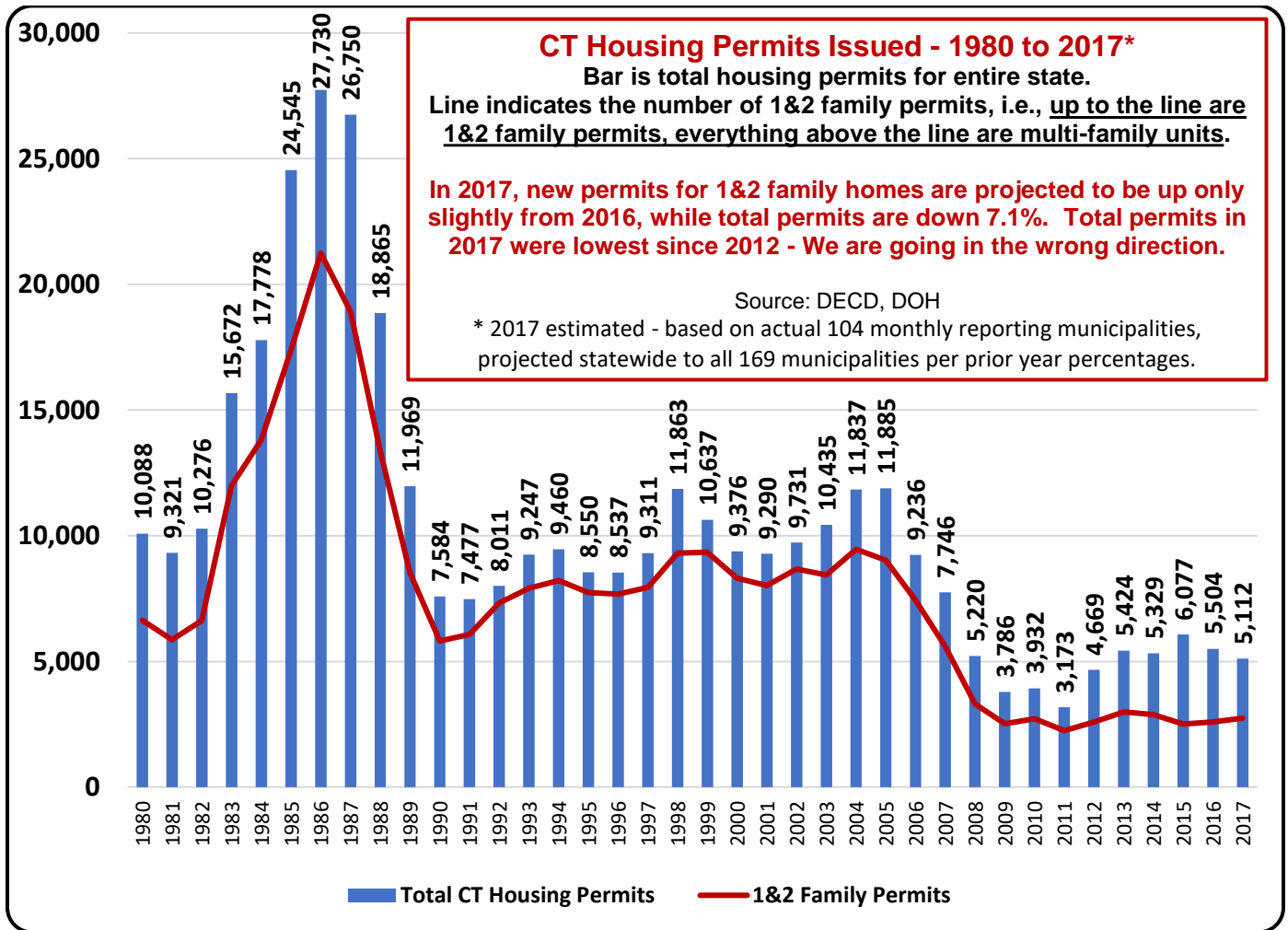
### Every 100 New Single Family Homes Create:

- 334 new jobs, \$29.5 million in wages, and
- \$4.7 million in Taxes, Fees & Charges

paid to State & Local Government in the 1<sup>st</sup> Year Alone!\*

Construction of 9,500 homes in a year – normal levels - would produce:

- 31,730 new jobs annually, \$2.8 billion in wages annually, and
- \$447 million in taxes, fees & charges annually.



\* 100 multi-family units create 165 jobs, \$14.5 million in wages and \$2.4 million in taxes & fees in the 1<sup>st</sup> year alone. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> year and subsequent years, on average each 100 housing units (both SF and MF) create another 52 jobs, producing annually \$4.3 million in wages and \$1.4 million in taxes & fees for state & local government, due to occupant's economic activity.

For more on how homes more than pay for themselves, go to [www.hbact.org/HomesDoPay](http://www.hbact.org/HomesDoPay).

Economic impact data reported in "The Economic Impact of Home Building in Connecticut: Income, Jobs, and Taxes Generated" (NAHB Housing Policy Department, March 2012). Study cited extensively by CT DECD (see The Connecticut Economic Digest, Vol. 17 No. 7 July 2012). Housing permit data in chart reported by DECD, then DOH.