

### Problems with New HUD Installation Requirements Raised at Congressional Hearing

HUD Secretary Castro was challenged about HUD's new installation standards at a recent congressional hearing. Speaking at the House Financial Services Committee, Representative Bruce Poliquin (R-ME) raised concerns to the Secretary about HUD's new interim guidance on frost-free foundations and frost-protected shallow foundations. The industry has been telling HUD that the guidance goes beyond what is required in the minimum installation regulations since the new requirements issued in April.

Rep. Poliquin explained to Secretary Castro that manufactured housing is critical to the supply of affordable housing in Maine, where one in eight of his constituents reside in a manufactured home. He said, "You came out with new rules...telling our state how to deal with building a frost free foundation...if I may Mr. Chairman, there's nobody in the country, other than the folks in the state of Maine, who knows winter [and] how to build a frost-free wall. I hope we can work such that our state regulators can continue to have the flexibility to do what the law says."

The Manufactured Housing Institute (MHI) wants HUD to clarify questions regarding compliance with installation standards in freezing climates. Many MHI members have expressed concerns that the guidance represents a restriction of discretion generally afforded by the HUD Code installation standard. The Code allows for other alternative methods that may or may not have the prescriptive requirements outlined in the interim guidance.

Rep. Poliquin's line of questions helped to elevate the issue to the HUD Secretary, who agreed to work with him on the issue.

*(Source: MHI Bulletin, July 13, 2016)*

### Record Turnout at 2016 Lobsterfest



A record number of CMHA members and their guests attended the annual CMHA Lobsterfest that was held at Rocky's Aqua Restaurant in Clinton, CT on June 10th. Attendees from Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island, New Jersey and Pennsylvania traveled to the Connecticut shoreline to network, socialize and enjoy the food. The beautiful weather and scenic views added to the festive mood of the day.

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