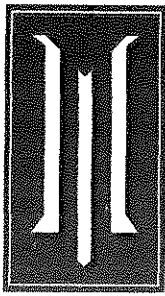


10-30-09



The Metropolitan Contracting Group

- Residential
- Commercial
- Renewable
- Consulting
- Project Management
- Affiliate Network

Finance & Policy Division and Senate Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Budget Division Committee Meeting

The Metropolitan Contracting Group Date: 10/30/09

Comments by:
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Good morning Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

The Department of Commerce, by way of ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funding, has commissioned the Builders Association of MN (BAM) to administer "Project ReEnergize". Project ReEnergize is a cash rebate program designed to stimulate residential homeowners to proceed with renovations or upgrades to their residence by including energy efficient updates to the project (windows, air-sealing and insulation). The response and support for the program was overwhelming and effective. The BAM continues to manage this program in a very productive and informative fashion.

My firm is very involved in being a resource for successful deployment of programs such as these through the continued education of our professional market affiliates such as our relationship with Coldwell Banker Burnet, a local market leader. We regularly speak at their branches to provide our market partners with updates on new programs and incentives, as well as identify new ways to create business. The response is overwhelming and their support invaluable. Without relationships like these, there is a gap in communication that could ultimately NOT serve the best interest of the consumer.

Another important topic which is hopefully delved into deeper the development of a new program in which the Office of Energy Security's new "Energy Saver" Program in conjunction with MN Housing Finance Agency's "Fix-up Fund" will provide affordable 2nd mortgages to homeowners for eligible upgrades to the home (windows, insulation, a new furnace, central air conditioning, electrical wiring, a new roof, a garage, septic repairs). The proposed rebate maximum is \$10,000. This, coupled with program extensions/revisions like 1st Time Homebuyer Credits, will spark a flurry of affordable home solutions. All of the components create a more economically sound home buying and home maintenance environment; not to mention assisting in stabilizing declining home values.

This is extremely important to homeowners and businesses alike. These programs, and their continuance, will create more jobs for: realtors (new buyers and listings), bank and mortgage workers (approved MHFA lenders), contractors and their labor force. This creates a huge influx of qualified and ready homeowners (household income limit of \$96,500) now able to start saving money in energy costs and increase the overall value of their homes in a down market. This is a direct and immediate stimulation to our economy in more than one layer!

I am a local voice and organizer of affiliate networks of professionals dedicated to providing a seamless resource network for the common goal of MN consumer education/service delivery in real estate.

Thank you for you time and considerations!

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