



Ontario
Home Builders'
Association

***MEDIA* RELEASE**

MPP Albanese Supports Small Business in Construction by Requiring WSIB Fairness

TORONTO December 13, 2013 – The Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) supports *Bill 155, Workplace Safety and Insurance Amendment Act (Premium Rates for Deemed Workers in Construction), 2013* tabled by MPP Laura Albanese which will support small business in construction by requiring fairness regarding WSIB premiums.

“OHBA members have been demanding fairness in the application of WSIB mandatory coverage (Bill 119) in our sector. This bill will support our members by requiring fairness in the application of WSIB premiums for small business in construction, keeping our sector competitive against illegal cash operators while still requiring us to be part of the WSIB system,” said Eric DenOuden, President of OHBA. “We appreciate MPP Albanese’s work with our industry when she served as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour. At that time she met with our members to discuss the impact of regulations and policies that encourage illegal economic activity in the residential construction sector and this Bill shows she listened.”

MPP Albanese’s Private Members Bill is an important step in requiring fairness for small business owners across Ontario and this legislation is consistent with OHBA’s Resolution made at the 2013 OHBA Annual Meeting of Members.

“OHBA has been opposed to Bill 119 from the very beginning,” said Joe Vaccaro, CEO of the OHBA. “Requiring mandatory WSIB coverage for entrepreneurs and business owners will not make construction sites safer but will result in the duplication of their insurance coverage and will increase the cost for consumers, putting our members at a competitive disadvantage against illegal cash operators.”

OHBA will continue its ongoing opposition to Bill 119. Earlier this year OHBA joined Progressive Conservatives Members of Provincial Parliament on a day of political action at Queen’s Park to protest mandatory WSIB coverage for independent operators and executive officers in the construction industry. OHBA still supports the abolition of Bill 119.

The Ontario Home Builders’ Association is the voice of the residential construction industry in Ontario representing 4,000 member companies organized into 30 local associations across the province. The industry contributes over \$42 billion to Ontario’s economy, employing more than 325,000 people across the province.

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To arrange an interview with OHBA President Eric DenOuden or CEO Joe Vaccaro, please contact
Kathryn Segal at OHBA, (416) 443-1545 ext. 223

Ontario Home Builders’ Association

20 Upjohn Road #101, North York, Ontario M3B 2V9 (416) 443-1545 Toll Free:800-387-0109 Fax:(416) 443-9982 email: info@ohba.ca