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Two Salem men to serve on national manufactured-home advisory committee

SALEM — Salem is the only city in the country from which HUD Secretary Mel Martinez tapped two people to serve on the new Consensus Committee for Manufactured Housing.

The two are Dana Roberts, manager of statewide services for the Oregon Building Codes Division in the Department of Consumer and Business Services, and Alan Youse, nominated for the committee by AARP, which serves a consumer advocate for manufactured home owners. Youse, an analyst for the Oregon Department of Agriculture, lives in a manufactured home and has been active in manufactured-home owners' issues.

"Oregon is a national leader in both the manufacture of homes and in setting the standards that dictate the quality of those homes," said Roberts. "We build very upscale manufactured homes that compete well with site-built homes."

Roberts and Youse will join 19 others from around the country on the CCMH, which is scheduled to meet for the first time in August in Washington, D.C. Members, who will serve two-year terms, were selected from three categories: producers, users, and general interest and public officials. Roberts has been involved in BCD's manufactured home programs for a decade and will serve the committee as a public official; Youse will serve in the "user" category.

The CCMH is a 21-member advisory body established by the *Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000* and charged with providing recommendations for revision and interpretation of HUD's manufactured-housing construction- and-safety standards and related procedural and enforcement regulations. The CCMH will also develop proposed model-installation standards for the manufactured-housing industry and will forward its proposals to HUD's Manufactured Housing Program for review.

Roberts said that when it comes to the task of setting nationwide standards for manufactured homes, his three top issues will be ensuring that standards address the weather and geographic conditions of the locales in which the homes will be sited; increasing affordable housing by developing a broader use of manufactured housing through design flexibility, e.g., two-story and duplex units; and addressing the need for energy efficiency of the homes.

Youse said, "It's a daunting challenge to come up with construction standards and a dispute-resolution process for all states that will give consumers a voice and speedier resolution of problems, but I'm looking forward to being part of that process."

Congress established HUD's Manufactured Housing Program in 1974 to reduce personal injuries, deaths, property damage, and insurance costs, and to improve the quality and durability of manufactured homes. With the *Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000*, Congress added emphasis on protecting the affordability of manufactured housing and provided for uniform enforcement of performance-based standards.

Through the Manufactured Housing Program, HUD establishes and enforces Federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards. HUD is assisted in this effort by the 37 states that have established state administrative agencies to oversee the industry.

Since 1976, more than five million manufactured homes have been built in the U.S. Oregon has 11 manufacturers. The number of homes either built in or shipped to Oregon in 2000 was 7,136.