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Typical Residential Builder or Contractor in Michigan is Now 59 Years Old

LANSING, MI —The Home Builders Association of Michigan (HBAM) unveiled new data today showing the average age of a licensed builder or contractor in Michigan is 57 and the median age is 59. HBAM utilized state licensure information and cross-sorted data with state voter registration lists to determine the ages of those in the industry.

“As we’ve been saying for nearly a decade, the aging demographics in our industry have been worsening which continues to exacerbate the housing crisis our state faces,” noted HBAM CEO Bob Filka. “More and more business owners in the industry are retiring or are poised to do so. Those who have had to deal with a home repair or a renovation project know there is a shortage as do builders who struggle with getting subcontractor help. This data simply quantifies what many already know—we have too few young people in our industry and too few companies to provide the services our state needs.”

In releasing this new data, HBAM highlighted the work of its affiliated non-profit foundation, Skilled-to-Build Michigan. Acting Executive Director, Dawn Crandall, underscored the importance of this information by noting now might be the best time ever to start a business in the residential construction industry.

“The trades and jobs in our sector have often been looked down upon by parents and educators,” Crandall said. “In today’s world of building, the barriers to entry are low and the compensation opportunities, as an owner or worker, are high. If you’re a budding entrepreneur, get some training and experience and start your own company.” Crandall also noted: “more dollars and efforts at the K-12 level are needed to improve awareness about all the great career opportunities there are in this sector.”

The Home Builders Association of Michigan, a professional trade association comprised of 19 local homebuilder associations around the state and their 5,000 builder, subcontractor and supplier members. As the state’s largest association representing construction-related sectors, the HBA of Michigan works to positively promote the building industry and impact legislative, regulatory and legal issues affecting housing attainability.

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