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MHARR PROVIDES WHITE HOUSE MH TASK FORCE WITH ROADMAP TO ELIMINATE ZONING DISCRIMINATION AND COSTLY REGULATION

Washington, D.C., April 27, 2022 – In a second set of written comments (copy attached) submitted to the White House Manufactured Housing Task Force (Task Force) in connection with a series of "Listening Sessions," the Manufactured Housing Association for Regulatory Reform (MHARR) has called on the Task Force to recommend decisive action by the Biden Administration to eradicate discriminatory and exclusionary zoning targeting modern, affordable federally-regulated manufactured housing, and to withdraw the pending U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposed rule on manufactured housing energy standards. These actions are in addition to steps previously detailed by MHARR to jump-start manufactured housing personal property consumer financing in the face of the continued refusal of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to implement the statutory Duty to Serve with respect to such loans.

In both its initial and second set of Task Force comments MHARR, given the complexity of federal manufactured housing law and the industry's vertical structure, has methodically sought to educate Task Force members, representing multiple federal agencies, with respect to the specific impediments that are restricting the growth and expansion of the affordable, mainstream manufactured housing market, and the specific actions and policies that can, should and must be taken at the federal level to finally remedy and resolve those needless constraints. With this background, the White House Task Force now has a clear and compelling opportunity to take significant action to effectively remedy financing discrimination against manufactured housing consumers; zoning discrimination used to exclude affordable manufactured housing; and discriminatory, high-cost energy standards for manufactured homes proposed by DOE.

President Biden has made it clear that he seeks – through both policy initiatives and targeted federal funding -- to expand the availability of affordable homeownership in order to erase a nearly four-million home housing shortage and to promote housing equity. To achieve these goals, the baseless restrictions that needlessly constrain manufactured housing, as the main source of affordable homeownership, from reaching its full potential <u>must</u> be eliminated. The true measure of the White House Task Force will be whether it recommends -- and the Biden Administration pursues – concrete action to do just that.

The Manufactured Housing Association for Regulatory Reform is a Washington, D.C.-based national trade association representing the views and interests of independent producers of federally-regulated manufactured housing.