

Congressman Joe Donnelly
Statement for the Record
Field Hearing: “The State of Manufactured Housing”

I am pleased that the Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittee is having this field hearing today. Manufactured housing plays a vital role in meeting the housing needs of the nation by providing quality, affordable homes to over 18 million people. This \$8 billion a year industry has long been a major economic driver in places like Elkhart County, Indiana by directly employing thousands in manufactured housing plants and thousands more in suppliers' factories, not to mention contributing to the local municipal tax base.

I appreciate the hard work the industry has done for communities across our country and particularly in areas like Northern Indiana, which I am proud to represent. This industry knows all too well the pain felt by this economic crisis. The last couple of years have not been easy, and the suppliers, manufacturers and dealers have been patient and worked hard to continue to make quality homes and keep hardworking Americans employed so they can provide for their families.

As we work to emerge from this housing crisis, we realize that now, more than ever, it is important that people have access to quality homes that they can afford. As millions of Americans are facing or on the brink of foreclosure, we must recognize the value and cost-effectiveness that these homes provide. Manufactured housing should be considered a critical solution to helping us emerge from this housing crisis.

Creating affordable homeownership is one of the fundamental building blocks of our society and plays a fundamental role in achieving the American Dream. It helps to provide families with economic security and build strong communities. I hope today is an opportunity to highlight this industry's important contributions and identify how Congress can ensure it remains a thriving and successful job-creator in America and a source to meet our current and future housing needs.