



November 22, 2021

Metropolitan Council of East Baton Rouge Parish
222 St. Louis St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Metropolitan Council,

The **Home Builders Association of Greater Baton Rouge (HBA)** requests the Metropolitan Council of Baton Rouge to approve the permitting ordinance amendment by Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome and the Baton Rouge Department of Public Works (BRDPW).

The HBA is dedicated to promoting, protecting, and preserving the home building industry as a viable economic force in Greater Baton Rouge. The continued steps to streamline the permitting process will remove layers of complexity and offer more transparent solutions, which encourages economic development to improve our community.

The HBA commends BRDPW for working with the building industry to improve the permitting process and increase the value of its services. We support improving transparency and communication, standardizing the permitting process, and using the correct resources to improve performance and accountability.

The proposed ordinance demonstrates the thoughtful consideration of the City-Parish's leadership to enhance the Permits and Inspections Division's services while remaining cognizant of housing affordability issues. If approved, the implementation should provide a more customer-oriented, timely, and cost-effective approach. The partnership with South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) has already made a tremendous difference in the time and accuracy of the permitting process. This will bring more certainty, which is expected to reduce project delays and costs for prospective home buyers.

This is a worthwhile step forward for our industry in East Baton Rouge Parish. Creating a process that addresses the frequent delays, which adds time and money to the building project, will positively affect everyone. With the new process, we expect a more consistent and improved process in receiving approval for permits that will yield time and cost savings.

To discuss any of these topics further, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are always available to discuss how we can provide safe, affordable, and quality housing to the residents of East Baton Rouge Parish.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brandon Ivey'.

Brandon Ivey
HBAIGBR Board of Directors Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Zito'.

Karen Zito
President and CEO