

FEATURED NEWS



Three Elected Officials Receive NAHB Awards

In 2026, three elected officials have received awards from NAHB in recognition of their contributions to the residential construction industry.

Two officials, New Hampshire Gov. Kelly Ayotte and Washington Lt. Gov. Denny Heck, [received the NAHB Defender of Housing Award](#), an annual honor for policymakers who have demonstrated strong support for pro-housing support. Additionally, Utah Lt. Gov. Deidre Henderson received the [Economic Engine Award](#), presented annually by NAHB and the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA), for contributions to driving growth through economic and workforce development in state government.



NHHBA President Eric Jackson, NAHB State Rep Rand Hinman and NHHBA members presented Gov. Kelly Ayotte with the Defender of Housing Award this January.

Ayotte was presented with the award in January by New Hampshire Home Builders Association (NHHBA) President Eric Jackson and State Representative Rand Hinman, who thanked her for her leadership and support of the industry. Ayotte is a housing champion and has consistently prioritized housing in her addresses as the leading economic issue facing the state. To find solutions, Ayotte directed her commissioners to work with the NHHBA to develop a pro-housing legislative agenda and “get it done now.”

Members and staff from the Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW) presented the Defender of Housing Award to Heck at the State Capitol in Olympia, Wash. Heck has a distinguished career in both state and federal public service and has a long history of championing efforts to secure attainable housing and make homeownership a reality for more families in Washington. As a former congressman, Heck introduced pro-housing legislation and chaired the House of Representatives Housing Task Force. Currently serving as Lt. Governor, Heck continues to advocate for pro-development housing policies and provides valuable guidance to advance housing priorities for the state.

During a recent NLGA meeting, the 2026 Economic Engine Award was presented to Henderson. Utah Home Builders Association (HBA Utah) Executive Officer Ross Ford presented the award with NAHB Vice President Karl Eckhart. In addition to her efforts to ease the regulatory and financial burdens of housing construction, Henderson has participated in a “House that She Built” event in Utah.



2025 BIAW President Kent Arola, BIAW EVP Greg Lane, NAHB AVP Jeff Pemstein, and BIAW members and staff presented the Defender of Housing Award to Lt. Gov Denny Heck at the State Capitol in Olympia, Wash.



L to R: NAHB VP of State & Local Government Affairs Karl Eckhart with Economic Engine Award winner Lt. Gov. Deidre Henderson and HBA Utah Executive Officer Ross Ford.