



For Immediate Release:
Dec. 1, 2009

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AOBA Recognizes Maryland Officials for Leadership During 2009

At a recent Leadership Awards program in Washington, DC, the Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington (AOBA) honored a number of public servants for their leadership and commitment to the business community during 2009. The following Maryland elected officials were among public servants recognized at the real estate industry program:

The Honorable Robert Garagiola, a rising leader in Maryland politics, was commended for taking time to understand the intricacies of how the deregulated energy markets work, and recognizing that there are no easy answers to the high cost of energy. Serving as a member of the Finance Committee, Sen. Garagiola listened to endless hours of debate on bills attempting to re-regulate utilities and remove customer choice -- which could have resulted in even higher electric rates. He, along with Senators Pugh and Kittleman, held the line on customer choice.

The Honorable James Malone was honored for his thoughtful, balanced approach to dealing with challenging issues that impact the multifamily and commercial real estate industry. AOBA expressed gratitude to Delegate Malone for his hard work and tenacity throughout the year.

The Honorable Marvin Holmes was commended for sponsoring a bill to require that local jurisdictions conduct a fiscal impact study before enacting any legislation that restricts rental income. Delegate Holmes consistently listened to AOBA's concerns, and was respectful of issues that AOBA and others bring to the table.

The Honorable Donna Stifler worked with AOBA to address the frustrating and ever-growing backlog of elevator inspections. She doggedly pursued legislation to allow the use of third-party inspectors, and demonstrated her skills as a consensus builder. She was able to bring a non-partisan bill to the floor, and the bill she drafted increases public safety, reduces costs to the State, and eliminates delays. The bill passed without objections and went into effect July 1, bringing Maryland in-line with its surrounding jurisdictions. ##

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