



- Home
- Latest News
- Featured Homebuilders
- Home Buyer Resources
- Binding Arbitration
- Resource Links
- Submit Complaints
- View Complaints
- Take Action 101!
- Report Mortgage Fraud
- Mortgage Fraud News
- Foreclosure News
- Construction Defects
- Home Defects
- Photo Gallery
- Foundation Problems
- Homeowner Website Links
- HOA Reform

- Main Menu**
- Home
 - Latest News
 - Featured Homebuilders
 - Home Buyer Resources
 - Binding Arbitration
 - Resource Links
 - Submit Complaints
 - View Complaints
 - Take Action 101!
 - Report Mortgage Fraud
 - Mortgage Fraud News
 - Foreclosure News
 - Construction Defects
 - Home Defects
 - Photo Gallery
 - Foundation Problems
 - Homeowner Website Links
 - HOA Reform

- Featured Topics**
- Builder Death Spiral
 - Report Mortgage Fraud
 - Foreclosure Special Report
 - Mold & New Home Guide
 - Special News Reports
 - Centex & Habitability
 - How Fast Can They Build Them?
 - TRCC Editorial
 - Texas TRCC Scandal
 - Texas Watch - Tell Lawmakers
 - TRCC Recommendations
 - Sandra Bullock
 - People's Lawyer
 - Prevent Nightmare Homes
 - Choice Homes
 - Smart Money
 - Weekly Update Message

- News**
- Latest News
 - ▶ Frisco News
 - ▶ TRCC
 - ▶ New Jersey
 - HOBB News
 - Editorials

ABC Special Report
Investigation: New Home Heartbreak
Trump - NAHB Homebuilders Shoddy Construction and Forced Arbitration

IS YOUR STATE NEXT?
As Goes Texas So Goes the Nation
TEXAS REGULATES HOMEBUYERS!
NEW HOMEBUYER LEGISLATION MAY BE COMING TO YOUR STATE SOON!
How Texas Home Building Industry shaped the Texas Residential Construction Commission (TRCC) and regulates new homebuyers

Texas Observer - TRCC Reform on the Home Front?

Saturday, 20 September 2008

Reform on the Home Front

...try to justify their agency's existence. It's not an easy case to make. Two weeks earlier, the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission, a legislative oversight committee, had recommended that state lawmakers abolish the TRCC because it does "more harm than good."...Even by that lax standard, however, the Texas Residential Construction Commission—created ostensibly to aid homeowners—represents a new low. It's one thing to ignore consumers; it's quite another to work against them. Since its inception in 2003, the TRCC has been criticized for helping builders skirt lawsuits from consumers seeking reparations for shoddily built homes...Commissioner Mickey Redwine I ask that every commissioner unite and vote for change to prove to consumers that we are serious about change: "...The commissioners did unite—and voted against most of Redwine's reforms. Consumer advocates weren't surprised. "His heart is in the right place," said Alex Winslow, executive director of the consumer advocacy group Texas Watch. "But regardless of the changes TRCC makes, it is broken and needs to be scrapped."

Reform on the Home Front

September 19, 2008 | Political Intelligence

In early September, the nine appointees who run the Texas Residential Construction Commission convened a meeting. The agenda: try to justify their agency's existence. It's not an easy case to make. Two weeks earlier, the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission, a legislative oversight committee, had recommended that state lawmakers abolish the TRCC because it does "more harm than good."

Few state agencies in Texas are known for aggressive regulation. Even by that lax standard, however, the Texas Residential Construction Commission—created ostensibly to aid homeowners—represents a new low. It's one thing to ignore consumers; it's quite another to work against them. Since its inception in 2003, the TRCC has been criticized for helping builders skirt lawsuits from consumers seeking reparations for shoddily built homes. Some critics call it Bob Perry's agency, in honor of the wealthy Houston homebuilder who is a top Republican donor. Indeed, the agency's board is dominated by representatives of the home-building industry, including Perry's corporate counsel, who wrote the 2003 bill that created the TRCC [see "The Agency that Bob Perry Built," February 4, 2005].

Commissioner Mickey Redwine is the lonely voice of reform at the agency. At the public meeting, he told his fellow commissioners what most homeowners already know: "I don't feel that a fair and unbiased agency has been created to represent the public . . . I ask that every commissioner unite and vote for change to prove to consumers that we are serious about change."



Illustration by Mike Krone

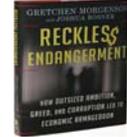
The commissioner, who owns a cable construction company in the small town of Ben Wheeler, offered up a four-page list of wide-ranging reforms such as a stipulation requiring builders to be licensed and a rule ensuring that TRCC commissioners not be associated with trade association groups that might suggest a conflict of interest.

Search HOBB.org

search...

GO

Reckless Endangerment
 BY: GRETCHEN MORGENSON and JOSHUA ROSNER
Outsized Ambition, Greed and Corruption Led to Economic Armageddon



Amazon
 Barnes & Noble

NPR Special Report
 Part I [Listen Now](#)
[Perry Home - No Warranty](#)
 Part II [Listen Now](#)
[Texas Favors Builders](#)

Washington Post
The housing bubble, in four chapters
BusinessWeek Special Reports
Bonfire of the Builders
Homebuilders helped fuel the housing crisis
Housing: That Sinking Feeling

Texas Regulates Homebuyers
Texas Comptroller Condemns TRCC Builder Protection Agency
TRCC is the punishment phase of homeownership in Texas

Consumer Affairs Builder Complaints

TRCC Implosion
TRCC Shut Down
Sunset Report

IS YOUR STATE NEXT?
As Goes Texas So Goes the Nation
 Knowledge and Financial Responsibility are still Optional for Texas Home Builders

OUTSTANDING FOX4 REPORT
TRCC from Bad to Worse
Case of the Crooked House



TRCC AN ARRESTING EXPERIENCE



- [New Jersey](#)
- [New Jersey & Texas](#)
- [Write Letters to the Editors](#)
- [TRCC in the News](#)
- [Texas TRCC Scandal](#)
- [Survey](#)
- [Fair Use Notice](#)

- [HOBB Archives](#)
- [About HOBB](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Fair Use Notice](#)
- [Legislative Work](#)
- [Your House](#)

HOBB News Alerts and Updates
[Click Here to Subscribe](#)

Support HOBB - Become a Sustaining Member

Who's Online

The commissioners did unite—and voted against most of Redwine’s reforms. Consumer advocates weren’t surprised. “His heart is in the right place,” said Alex Winslow, executive director of the consumer advocacy group Texas Watch. “But regardless of the changes TRCC makes, it is broken and needs to be scrapped.”

Redwine, who was appointed by Gov. Perry in 2003, said he would support abolishing the agency too, if it could not be turned around in two years. (TRCC staff is asking for 12 years to reform the agency.) “I still think it’s worth saving if we can turn it around,” Redwine said. “I was appointed to look out for the best interests of consumers, and if that means abolishing the agency, then I will support that.”

The TRCC will argue for its continued existence at the next Sunset Commission meeting, on September 23. At the meeting, state lawmakers on the Sunset Commission will mull over whether TRCC is worth saving and make a recommendation. Ultimately, the Legislature will decide the fate of the TRCC during its session next year. That’s when homebuilders, who are some of the state’s most prolific donors to political campaigns, will have a big say.

Winslow—who has been working to abolish the agency for the past five years—says he wouldn’t be surprised if the TRCC survives. “I have no doubt that the powerful homebuilding lobby will be doing everything they can to save this agency.”

<http://www.texasobserver.org/article.php?aid=2845>

—Melissa del Bosque

[< Prev](#) [Next >](#)

[\[Back \]](#)

The Pat and Bob Egart Building & TRCC Experience

Build it right the first time
[An interview with Janet Ahmad](#)

Bad Binding Arbitration Experience?
contribute@hobb.org
 or call 1-210-402-6800

Texas Homebuilder Bob Perry Political Contributions
The Agency Bob Perry Built TRCC Connection News Tort Reform
 NPR Interview - Perry's Political influence movement.
[Click to listen](#)

Texas Homebuyers Fight for Rights
[TRCC Abolish or Fix](#)
 or [Pass Home Lemon Law](#)
 or [Homebuyers Bill of Rights](#)

Pulte Homeowner Survey Warranty & Mortgage Experience
[Click to participate](#)

Feature: Mother Jones Magazine
Are you Next?
[People Magazine - Jordan Fogal fights back](#)
 Because of construction defects Jordan’s Tremont Home is uninhabitable
<http://www.tremonthomehorrors.com/>
 [You could be the next victim](#)
Interview with Award Winning Author Jordan Fogal

Special Money Report
Big Money and Shoddy Construction: Texas Home Buyers Left Out in the Cold
[Read More](#)
[Read Report: Big Money...](#)
Home Builder Money Source of Influence

[⌂ top of page ⌂](#)

