

## CAI continues its disrespect and condemnation of HOA homeowners

The Community Association Institute (CAI) continued taking its cheap shots at HOA homeowners during public hearings on HOA legislation on April 9, 2011. Previously it was using the terms lazy and complainers when referring to the reasons for HOA homeowner problems (HOA Town Hall Meeting in October 2012). Now, this group who represents property managers and HOA Boards and appears deeply embedded with the legal industry repeats its' poster child image for how to break and not build bridges in reforming the HOA and property management industry.

During public hearings on HOA legislation on April 9, 2012, they provided criticism of a proposed Bill that would allow homeowners to enter into a payment plan for HOA debt. They implied the re-payment plan would simply provide the opportunity and encourage homeowners to enter into a mandated re-payment plans only to take the opportunity to and begin delinquent payments again on current HOA dues. In other words, they seem to view homeowners as schemers and slackers looking for ways to default on debt. The Bill's intention is to provide an opportunity for homeowners who are in financial difficulty to cure their debt through a payment plan and to preclude foreclosure on homes for the smallest amounts owed. Seems the CAI folks view it as some plot for homeowners to default without accountability: nothing in this Bill allows for non-payment of dues and/or to encourage or promote default on HOA dues.

Then another well-known CAI representative had the nerve to repeat an earlier contention that the need for HOA legislative reform might be overblown and that the hundreds of complaints received by the State HOA, an unknown entity to the public, is something that is not alarming or needs immediate attention. You know just those HOA homeowner complainers. What planet is this person on? This is the same person who earlier indicated that the proposal for registration fees in a House Bill would be a financial burden to homeowners and HOA's. Really, the fee in the Bill will range on average from a low of twenty five to thirty cents to no more than fifty to seventy five cents per household per year in most HOA's. If I skip a latte' at Starbucks one morning this week I can pay for six homeowners share of HOA registration fees for a year.

Now one more baffling comment from a lawyer at the April 9 hearings on HOA legislation. This person, related somehow to CAI interests, even objected to the requirement that HOA's register at all. They indicated that it takes the assistance of a lawyer to register. Please, a tenth grader could complete this in a flash. If this is the best reason to oppose parts of HOA legislative reform you have no good reason to oppose.

Don't these folks have any pride in making such bizarre and unfounded statements? Folks, this is the type of resistance we are up against and unfortunately there are too many in the legislature and too many lobbyists pushing these empty arguments to thwart HOA reform.