



January 20, 2015

The Honorable Andy Gardiner  
Senate President of the State of Florida  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

RE: January 2015 Status Report of the Florida Concrete Masonry Education Council

Dear President Gardiner,

This report is made pursuant to section 446.53 (1)(c)(7. of the Florida Statutes, which provides as follows:

The Council shall submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 15 of each year outlining the revenues received by the council, the percentage of the industry participating in the programs, the use of the funds received, the goals and objectives for the year and the methods of achieving such goals and objectives, the number of individuals who have received training or assistance from the programs supported by the council, and information relating to job placements and industry workforce needs.

The law establishing the Council as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and direct support organization of the Department of Economic Opportunity was passed by the Florida legislature in the 2014 legislative session and signed into law by the Governor shortly thereafter. It operates as a public entity, subject to the sunshine law. The Council consists of 13 voting members appointed by the Governor. Appointments were made by Governor Scott on November 14 and December 23, 2014. The Council's mission is set out in statute, but In general, its mission is to establish a voluntary funding mechanism among industry producers of concrete masonry units for the purpose of raising money to provide educational, training and job opportunities for individuals in the field of concrete masonry.

The Council held its first public meeting at Mid-Florida Tech in Orlando on January 7, 2015 and elected its officers. The Council reviewed all of its internal documents as pre-approved by the Department of Economic Opportunity and approved its Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Antitrust Policy and Memorandum, Code of Ethics, its Agreement with DEO and a timeline for activities. It received an open government presentation from Pat Gleason of the Attorney General's Office. The Council established three (3) subcommittees: (a) a project funding and grants subcommittee to develop procedures therefore, (b) a collection of funds subcommittee to

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develop procedures for collecting voluntary assessments, and (c) a budget subcommittee to budget and allocate resources.

The Council is currently developing a definition for “concrete masonry unit” in order to determine voluntary assessments. It is also developing a timeline for beginning the assessment process, as well as developing its first strategic plan. The strategic plan is to be submitted to the DEO by mid-April and should include strategies that provide for the collection of voluntary assessments; planned education and training activities; planned fundraising, grants, donations, and contributions activities; planned outreach activities; penetrative initiatives and measures; and monitoring activities to measure accountability and outcomes. In short, the plan should identify the goals and objectives of programs to be offered for 2015 based on planned or forecasted assessments and collections and will begin to offer training and identify procedures to monitor job placement and workforce needs.

Once the first assessments are collected, the Council will have a better handle on the percentage of industry participation. The Council is also applying for its 501(c)(3) status. Revenues raised to date have been “seed money” voluntarily contributed by the industry primarily for the purpose of paying for necessary start-up administrative costs associated with creation of the Council. Approximately \$85,000 of seed money has been or will be voluntarily raised/contributed to cover the cost of operations until the first assessments are collected, which are estimated to begin in the second quarter of 2015.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to present this report.

Sincerely,



Pat McLaughlin  
Interim Executive Director

cc: Vickie Smith Underwood and James Finch,  
Program Liaisons for Department of Economic Opportunity