

SCHWABE COLL.

*Labon*

May 28, 1946

Mr. Ben C. Wileman  
Petroleum Building  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Friend:

I have your letter of recent date, expressing your opposition to the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill, S-1592.

In my opinion, this is just another instance of putting the camel's nose under the tent. I am opposed to all such socialization of industry. I have voted consistently against all such "New Dealirium".

I do wish you could impress your views upon the representative from your District.

With all good wishes, I beg to remain

Sincerely yours,

George B. Schwabe, M. C.

GS:hs



# BEN C. WILEMAN

BUILDER

Petroleum Bldg. - - - Phone 3-0364

Oklahoma City, Okla.

May 7, 1946

MIDWEST HOMES, INC.  
EL RENO HOMES, INC.  
WILEMAN BUILDING CO.

Honorable George B. Schwabe  
c/o House Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman:

ASSOCIATE  
W & W HOUSING CORP.

The Wagner-Elender-Taft Bill, Senate S-1592, is now before the Banking and Currency committee of the house. This complicated bill seems to offer all things to all people, but definitely sets up a czar over the entire construction industry including financing.

MEMBER  
NATL. ASSN. OF  
HOME BUILDERS  
OF THE U. S.



OKLA. CITY  
REAL ESTATE BOARD

I feel sure you will agree with me after you have studied this bill that it contains nothing of any emergency measure, it offers nothing to help elevate the immediate housing shortage, and does not offer any aid to the housing of veterans. It calls for the National Housing Agency as a permanent agency of the Government to give one man in Washington power to program whatever houses are to be built in each locality. This bill also calls for five hundred thousand (500,000) public housing units per year beginning the first year after its enactment. Shortages of materials are the only reason for the housing shortages. There are approximately thirty thousand (30,000) builders in the United States fully capable of building in excess of one million (1,000,000) units per year. For the past several months these builders have been operating at two (2) or three (3) per cent of their capacity production. We need whatever encouragement and help Government can give in producing building materials and once these thirty thousand (30,000) men are in full production, it seems logical that prices in existing homes will start downward.

Private builders without the aid of any Government finance produced nine hundred and eighty thousand (980,000) living units in 1925. We have learned much during these war years, and with the new technics and devices, by thorough study and interchange of ideas, I am confident we can produce in excess of one million (1,000,000) units, as soon as materials can be provided. In order to get

"BE WELL HOUSED"



Honorable George B. Schwabe  
c/o House Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

Ben C. Wileman  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
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full production and make plans for volume construction, it is essential that the industry know the rules of the game and not be subject to over-night directives or regulations that might over-night place a builder in bankruptcy, who the day before was operating in full accordance with rules in existence at that time.

During 1939 we had throughout the country a supply of housing and also in practically all areas the normal vacancy existed.

It seems to me we should encourage decentralization of Government and encourage private industry, especially those industries which are willing and anxious to meet the needs.

I shall greatly appreciate your giving this very important piece of legislation a thorough study, and I feel sure you would not support legislation that would make five hundred thousand (500,000) families a year wards of the Government, at the expense of others by increasing taxes.

Private industry has plans to meet the entire housing need. I think you can well depend that they will meet the need, once free from Government control and interference, the job will be well done in a real American way by free enterprise.

Yours very truly,



Ben C. Wileman

BCW:sp