Dear:

I am writing to invite your participation in an independent assessment the Department has asked the Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium (CRC), based at Florida State University, to conduct. This assessment will focus on the feasibility of the Division of Florida Land Sales, Condominiums and Mobile Homes convening a negotiated rulemaking on rules needed in conjunction with the operation of the Bureau of Mobile Homes.

Negotiated rulemaking is a new tool the legislature has recently authorized for use in agency rulemaking (Ch.120.54(2)(d) F.S.). The Department is the first state agency to actively consider its use. This tool has been successfully used by other states and by federal agencies as a cost-effective approach which requires the voluntary participation of the affected interests. As defined in Chapter 120, "negotiated rule making is a process that uses a committee of designated representatives to draft a mutually acceptable proposed rule."

The Department has entered into an agreement with the CRC to conduct an independent assessment and produce a report with recommendations to the Department by the end of June 1997. In this regard, Robert M. Jones, Director of the Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium, will be working in conjunction with professional mediator, Jonathan M. Davidson, who is with the Tallahassee Mediation Center. Mr. Jones and Mr. Davidson will be conducting interviews with various interest groups. The interviews and the subsequent report will provide guidance to the Department on the feasibility of going forward with this process and recommendations on how to organize any negotiated rulemaking for rules published pursuant to Chapter 723, Florida Statutes.

The Department appreciates your cooperation and time in helping to make this a workable and productive process. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact ________________.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Farrell
Secretary, Department of Business and Professional Regulation