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**IBS ADVISORS**  
INTEGRATED BUILDING SCIENCE

August 9, 2010

HomeStar on Life Support

**Brett,**

Senator Harry Reid attached HomeStar to a stripped down energy bill that focused on these 4 things:

1. Making BP pay for the oil mess in the Gulf and finding ways to prevent this from happening again
2. Create clean energy jobs that cannot be outsourced, using HomeStar
3. Lessen our dependence on oil
4. Investing in the manufacturing of natural gas vehicles and protecting the environment through the Land & Water Conservation Fund

This resulted in opposition from the oil state Democrats in addition to the Republicans who opposed the bill. Senator Reid had to withdraw the bill, lacking 60 votes to break a filibuster and Congress went into recess without taking any action on it.

It is now likely that the Democrats will add HomeStar to a bill with climate change provisions and load it up with all kinds of amendments that the opposition finds onerous. This will allow both sides to go into the November elections with a voting record that satisfies their constituents; it certainly appears that neither side is interested in governing, only in pandering to the public to position for victory in November.

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### Builders Tax Credit Update!

RESNET is working with legislative staffers during the recess to get a 5 year tax credit, retroactive to January 1, 2010, targeting a HERS Index of 50 or lower (instead of the convoluted 50% better than the 2004 code on heating and cooling only, with 10% of the improvement coming from the shell) on the legislative agenda.

This will likely be post-November elections, but there is broad support among both parties for the extension of this tax credit.

HomeStar has two real issues that need to be resolved, and can be dealt with simple changes: 1st, remove the BPI certification requirement for HVAC contractors and replace it with ACCA/ANSI Quality Installation Standard certification and 2, change the recipient of the funds from the contractor to the homeowner. As it stands today, the contractor is required to essentially loan the homeowner the rebate amount up front while they wait for the government agencies to process the rebate to the contractor. This is going to cause a significant impact on the cash flow of the contractor. If you are a small contractor, then this will only add to any credit crunch you are currently facing. If you are one of the big-box retailers, the SilverStar program is very attractive and they can absorb the cost of loaning money to their customers (most of them do that now anyway).

## IBS Advisors Awarded State Contract

IBS Advisors has been awarded a contract by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to deliver 7 HERS Rater trainings to affordable housing providers who receive State funds.

We were awarded the contract based upon our experience with affordable housing and our high quality delivery method.

Our training method uses a textbook written specifically for the HERS program. A case study is woven throughout the textbook, which also contains exercises that use backwards fading, review questions at the end of each chapter (with the answers worked out immediately following so the students can see how the correct answer was arrived at) and a reference section containing virtually all of the equations used in energy modeling.

Additional support is provided through an accompanying CD that contains the presentations with student notes, the textbook as PDF, and a quiz that is used to reinforce the information gained in the course.

## What our students say:

"I was totally impressed with depth of relative knowledge, practical knowledge and presentation of information." - Ray H.

"I graduated from college and in my opinion Brett did as good a job as any of my college professors."  
-Jeremy J.

## Rater Training in New Mexico

IBS Advisors is delivering a HERS **Field Inspector** (August 18-20) and **Rater** (August 18-20, 25-27) training in Albuquerque, NM.

We are holding this training at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul Boulevard NE, Albuquerque NM.

Our trainings start at 8:00 am and end

Our instructor has years of experience as a developer, builder and HERS Rater, bringing the practice of residential construction to bear on the theory of energy efficiency. This practical knowledge is critical to the success of our students.

Not only do we have expertise in construction and ratings, we are also expert trainers, able to effectively transfer knowledge rapidly to our students. This has resulted in a success rate that is unparalleled.

IBS Advisors is teaching a HERS Rater course in Albuquerque, NM, August 18-20th & 25-27th, and another one in San Antonio, TX, September 8-10th & 15-17th. We incorporate the [Field Inspector](#) certification into our [Rater](#) training; the first week of each course is dedicated to the Field Inspector certification.

We have recently received recognition from the Texas Real Estate Commission that provides licensed home inspectors continuing education credits for our course.

For more information on these and other courses we offer, please visit our [website](#).

promptly at 5 pm.

We have had 100% of our students successfully complete the National Core Competency Exam in our last few classes, a testament to the quality of our students and the training methods and tools we use.

Brett Dillon  
IBS Advisors, LLC  
(210) 448-1106

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IBS Advisors, LLC | 8135 Bracken Creek | San Antonio | TX | 78266