

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

## EYE ON THE HILL

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### Do You Have 60 Seconds to Protect Your Future in Real Estate?

Every day, from the court house to the White House there is legislation being drafted that could affect the way REALTORS® currently do business. Legislation such as:

- Preserving the Mortgage Interest Deduction
- Keeping Banks out of Real Estate
- Capital Gains Exclusion on the Sale of Residences
- Transfer Taxes
- RESPA (Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act)

The list is endless. It is every REALTOR®'s responsibility and duty to speak up and have their voice heard at all levels of government. ***The best way to have your voice heard on Capitol Hill is through NAR's Action Center.*** This web-based tool directly connects you to your Member of Congress when there is potentially threatening legislation concerning real estate.

"It's probably the most effective tool, short of face-to-face meetings, that we can have with Members of Congress," says Bob Snowden, chairman of the REALTORS® Political Involvement Committee (RPIC). "If they receive several hundred letters, or several thousand, someone's going to catch on that we have an issue out there and we mean business. We need to get as many members signed up as humanly possible."

Our legislative priorities – from small business health plans to banks in real estate to the reform of government sponsored enterprises (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac) – are extensive and complex. We need your help getting your senator or representative to understand their urgency and pass legislation that benefits our industry. On Capitol Hill, constituent voices matter. If your voice isn't heard lawmakers conclude you don't care.

So participate on the Action Center. Register at [www.naractioncenter.com](http://www.naractioncenter.com). When NAR needs your immediate input, you will receive a Call for Action (CFA) by email. Then visit the Action Center to send your Member of Congress a pre-written or personalized letter with just three clicks of your mouse. It's that easy to use and fast. The process takes 60 to 90 seconds.

The Action Center works!!!

- This year, we got the Bankruptcy bill passed; the favorable response to the CFA was instrumental to that success.
- Members sent nearly 170,000 letters to Congress last year urging them to keep national banks out of real estate – NAR's most successful CFA since the Action Center was created four years ago.
- On other issues last year, more than 350,000 letters were sent.

NAR President Al Mansell wants to grow the Action Center from 150,000 to 500,000 participants. It can be done. REALTORS® have shown considerable support for NAR's political efforts, particularly the REALTORS® Political Action Committee (RPAC). "Money can't necessarily get you across the finish line if you don't have the support of the membership," explains Monty Newman, NAR's Vice President and Liaison to Government Affairs. "The synergy between the raising of funds and the willingness of our members to take an active role by using their voice to make a telephone call or to send a letter is critical to the long-term viability of our organization."