



CAPITOL CONNECTION

A brief weekly update from the Colorado Association
of REALTORS® Government Affairs Division

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Legislative Updates from the National Association of REALTORS®

NAR Testifies on Green Building Incentives versus Energy Labeling

At the direction of the Land Use, Property Rights and Environment Committee, NAR is continuing with efforts in opposition to provisions in House and Senate energy bills that are not consistent with NAR policy. This policy opposes government mandates particularly at the time of sale that impose undue burdens on property owners and managers.

This week, NAR urged two House committees - Financial Services and Agriculture - to intervene and oppose a bill's provisions that establish energy labeling and national building codes. The bill, H.R. 2454 by Reps. Waxman (D-CA) and Markey (D-MA), was recently approved by the House energy committee and has been the subject of recent REALTOR® congressional visits and calls to action. In testimony before a Financial Services subcommittee, Dave Wluka, member of the Land Use Committee, offered NAR's support and assistance to develop another bill, H.R. 2336 by Rep. Perlmutter (D-CO), and turn it into a working substitute amendment to the Markey-Waxman labeling provisions. The Perlmutter bill would provide green building incentives that result in energy efficiency improvements to - rather than stigmatizing older housing with labels. House leaders want a vote on the Waxman-Markey legislation before July 4th.

NAR will continue to seek every opportunity to raise concerns and educate members of Congress about the detrimental labeling and building code provisions.

New NAR Webpage on Short Sales

NAR has set up a webpage on short sales. REALTORS® who are new to short sales can learn the basics and watch webinars to increase their knowledge. The site includes information about NAR's advocacy efforts to improve the process, getting a short sale to closing, and informing buyers and sellers about the process. There is also information on the upcoming Obama Administration short sales program, which will be part of the Making Home Affordable Program. The Treasury Department is targeting the end of July for issuing guidance and uniform forms and for signing up servicers to participate in the new initiative.

[NAR's Short Sales Page](#)

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By investing in the Political Survival Fund and REALTOR® Small Donor Committee, you are helping to:

- Protect your income and maintain your commissions;
- Educate and elect policy makers who support REALTOR® issues; and
- Improve the Quality of Life in your community and the marketability of property in your

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Your support of PSF is critical to our legislative success - **Invest to your profession today!** This is the most vital piece of insurance your business will ever have.

** Your PSF contributions are voluntary dues and are used for political purposes. You may refuse to contribute without affecting your membership rights. Your contributions will be allocated according to the following formula: 30% of your contribution will be used by RPAC. Of this amount, 27% will be used by RPAC to support federal candidates and 3% will be used for other federal grassroots activities. 20 % of your contribution will be used by RCPAC to support local candidates and other grassroots activities. 50% of your contribution will be used by RIPAC to support ballot issues. Your contributions are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes.

For more information on legislation affecting REALTORS®, bill positions, political affairs, and other current events, please visit: [CAR Government Affairs Home Page.](#)

An online version of the 2009 Legislative Directory (including committee rosters) and more information on legislation in the House and Senate, visit: <http://www.leg.state.co.us/>

The live broadcast of the House of Representatives is [now online](#) where broadcasts will also be archived. Live proceedings can also be viewed on Comcast channel 165.