**Fill-in-the-blanks News Release for Realtors**® **Attending Capitol Hill Visits During the**

**2013 Midyear Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo**

**The following “fill-in-the-blanks” news release is designed to help you gain publicity in your local paper for your association’s visit with policymakers on Capitol Hill during the Realtors**® **2013 Midyear Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo. Place it on your local board/association letterhead with the blanks filled in as indicated and include a contact name and number at the top of the release. Deliver the release to the appropriate editors/reporters in your area. Please note that the term Realtor**® **is presented below in the Associated Press format to conform to most newspapers’ styles.**

**This news release is also posted on Realtor.org at:**

[*www.realtor.org/for-the-media/real-estate-facts*](http://www.realtor.org/for-the-media/real-estate-facts)

**Realtors® From [City] Address Critical Housing Issues on Capitol Hill**

**(Your city)** **(Date)** – While Realtors® from across the country convened in Washington, D.C., last week to attend the Realtors® 2013 Midyear Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo, members from the **[name of board or association]** met with lawmakers on Capitol Hill to discuss the housing issues critical to the [**area**] community.

“One of the most important aspects of the Realtors® Midyear Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo is that Realtors® actively engage with their representatives on Capitol Hill,” said **[title, name of Realtor® leaders from your association]**. “Realtors® met with their U.S. Senators and Representatives last week to communicate the issues critical to Realtors®’ businesses, communities and the consumers they represent. Realtors® all across the country were advocating public policies that promote sustainable homeownership and help move the real estate market forward toward a full recovery.”

**[Last name of Realtor® leader]**’s meeting with **[name of Senator and/or Representative]** focused on important issues impacting the real estate market here in **[city]**, including **[include the following or other issues as applicable]** preserving the mission and purpose of the Federal Housing Administration, protecting homeownership tax policies such as the mortgage interest deduction, and ensuring that mortgage financing is available and affordable to creditworthy home buyers.

As Congress pursues comprehensive tax reform, **[last name]** urged **[name of Senator and/or Representative]** to continue to support current tax laws for homeownership and real estate investment.

**[Customize the following quotes as appropriate]:**

“Homeownership has had long-standing support in this country because of its many benefits to individuals and families, communities and to the nation’s economy,” said **[last name]**. “Owning a home is an investment in your future and for many people, homeownership helps them gain a foothold into the middle class. Realtors® remain committed to preserving housing-related provisions that help facilitate homeownership, build wealth for families and provide stability to communities.”

**[Last name]** urged specific support for maintaining the current deduction for home mortgage interest. “The mortgage interest deduction helps many families become home owners, which is the foundation for a healthy middle class, and it is vital to the health and stability of housing markets,” said **[last name]**. “Altering this policy or any others related to homeownership could marginalize current and future home buyers, as well as jeopardize the emerging housing recovery and the overall economy.”

National Association of Realtors® President Gary Thomas, broker-owner of Evergreen Realty, in Villa Park, Calif., praised the **[name of Realtor® association]**’s efforts to address crucial housing issues with their members of Congress and help ensure the future of homeownership.

“Realtors® know the value of owning a home and investing in real estate, and by making ourselves heard on Capitol Hill last week, we are working to ensure that the American Dream of homeownership stays alive for generations to come,” said Thomas.

**[Your association’s boilerplate]**