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

**Realtor® 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 legislators, congressional and regulatory staff during the 2015 Realtor® 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] Converge on the Nation’s Capital**

**(Your city)** **(Date)** – Realtors® and leaders from **[name of board or association]** joined nearly 8,500 other guests from across the country in Washington, D.C., last week to attend the 2015 Realtor® Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo.

While in the nation’s capital, local participants met with **[names of Senators and/or Representatives]** and their staffs on Capitol Hill to ensure qualified buyers and investors in the **[area]** community have access to safe and affordable mortgage financing and protect and advance real estate-related policies.

“Attending the Realtor® Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo offers Realtors® an opportunity to meet face-to-face with decision makers and be heard on the issues that affect the industry and consumers’ ability to buy, sell and invest in real estate,” said **[name of Realtor® leader from your association, title]**. “While meeting with lawmakers, regulatory officials and industry executives last week, Realtors® urged support for the issues that are most important to the industry, communities and the clients that we serve.”

 Realtors®’ meetings with **[names of Senators and/or Representatives]** focused on important residential and commercial real estate issues to homeowners and investors here in **[city]**, including **[include the following or other issues as applicable]**, as well as extending the Mortgage Forgiveness Tax Relief Act, which expired at the end of 2014 and prevents distressed homeowners from facing excessive income tax bills on forgiven home loan debt.

 Realtors® also urged lawmakers to protect commercial real estate related tax provisions, such as retaining like-kind exchange provisions and making permanent the 15-year depreciation period for leasehold improvements. In addition, Realtors® advocated legislation to reform patent demand letters, set nationwide data security standards, and pass the Mortgage Choice Act to end discrimination against affiliated lenders.

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

“Realtors® do so much more than list and sell properties. The discussions we had last week about greater access to safe credit, patent reform, mortgage debt forgiveness tax relief, and commercial real estate tax provisions will help advance policies that strengthen homeownership and property rights and make a positive difference for consumers and our industry,” said **[last name of Realtor® leader].**

 National Association of Realtors® President Chris Polychron, executive broker with 1st Choice Realty in Hot Springs, Ark., praised the **[name of Realtor® association]**’s efforts to actively advance the real estate industry and provide a safe and affordable path to homeownership for Americans.

“Homeownership and commercial investment help build strong communities and families. With the current policy debates underway in Washington, it’s a critical time for Realtors**®** to take action and help shape the future of real estate,” said Polychron.

**[Your association’s boilerplate]**