

Steve Brown, AB, CIPS, CRS, GREEN
2014 President

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July 14, 2014

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the more than one million members of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, I am writing to encourage you to vote in favor of H.R. 3086, The Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act, when it comes to the House floor for a vote tomorrow. This important bill is designed to keep the Internet permanently free of state and local access taxes or any kind of multiple or discriminatory tax on electronic commerce.

The Internet has become an integral and vital part of the lives of almost all Americans, and it has greatly enhanced the ways that we as a nation learn, relax, and work. In the commercial world, the Internet is now so paramount that it is almost difficult to remember how business was conducted before its advent.

Nowhere is this more true than in real estate. The REALTOR® business model makes extensive use of the Internet. Prospective homebuyers search online for homes, offers are made and accepted, and transactions are even closed over the Internet. This makes the home purchase process far more efficient for buyers and sellers alike, and allows the REALTOR® to provide even better services for both parties.

REALTORS® were “early adaptors” of the Internet and its many applications, and continue to be heavy users of these technologies. And so are their clients. Currently, 9 of 10 home buyers rely on the Internet as one of their primary research sources. In fact, 52 percent turn to this source as their first step in the home-buying process. Open and tax-free access to the Internet and related technologies has made it possible for consumers to access a wealth of information about not just homes, but also communities and neighborhoods. We hope you agree that this information must continue to be available to all without being encumbered by additional taxes or government fees that would increase the cost of using this most valuable tool.

As you know, the current moratorium expires on November 1, 2014. Congressional action now will ensure that Internet access remains tax free. Many thousands of your constituents will thank you for your support of this key legislation.

Sincerely,



Steve Brown
2014 President, National Association of REALTORS®

