



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

The Voice For Real Estate®

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June 15, 2006

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

As you may know, Home Depot has announced its intent to acquire EnerBank, a federally insured Utah-chartered industrial bank (ILC) that specializes in making unsecured home improvement loans. The National Association of REALTORS® opposes this proposed acquisition because its approval would have the effect of eroding the national policy against mixing banking and commerce.

Home Depot's proposed business plan is a perfect example of why banking and commerce should not be mixed. Home Depot's plan calls for channeling credit primarily to home improvement contractors that are their customers. This plan will have an anti-competitive effect and adversely affect Home Depot's competitors and other banks.

Attached is NAR's letter to the FDIC urging the Board to disapprove Home Depot's acquisition of EnerBank. We urge you to consider the inevitable conflicts of interest, the harm to the competitive landscape, and the risks to the U.S. financial system that a Home Depot "Bank" may create by mixing banking and commerce. Please let me know if you would like to meet to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry Giovaniello".

Jerry Giovaniello
Sr. Vice President, Government Affairs
National Association of REALTORS®

Enclosures