



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

The Voice For Real Estate®

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June 5, 2007

The Honorable Max Baucus
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baucus:

On behalf of the more than 1.3 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) and its affiliate, the Institute of Real Estate Management, I am writing to express the association's strong support for S. 635, the Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act of 2007, which will be marked up by the Committee on Environment and Public Works tomorrow.

REALTORS® appreciate your efforts to address the growing problem of methamphetamine laboratories and the contamination resulting from these laboratories. By requiring scientific research and the development of voluntary remediation guidelines and detection technologies, S. 635 will greatly assist state and local governments in their efforts to safely clean up former methamphetamine laboratories.

The highly toxic chemicals used in the methamphetamine production process pose a health and safety hazard because of the presence of residual toxic chemicals that remain after production ceases. Once a meth laboratory is identified and shut down by law enforcement, the property owner or manager is faced with the difficult task of dealing with the residual contamination. Complicating the situation is the fact that many unsettled questions exist regarding appropriate cleanup methods and "safe" contamination levels. Real estate professionals welcome the guidance that will result from this legislation that will ensure properties affected by meth will be properly cleaned and declared safe for future occupants.

By providing much-needed scientific research and cleanup guidelines, S. 635 will protect the health and safety of property owners, residents and visitors, and it will foster the re-use of properties formerly used as methamphetamine laboratories. The National Association of REALTORS® looks forward to working with you to enact this legislation.

Sincerely,

Pat V. Combs, ABR, CRS, GRI, PMN
2007 President, National Association of REALTORS®