



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

The Voice For Real Estate®

500 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20001-2020

Charles McMillan
CIPS, GRI
President

Dale A. Stinton
CAE, CPA, CMA, RCE
Chief Executive Officer

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIVISION
Jerry Giovaniello, Senior Vice President
Gary Weaver, Vice President
Joe Ventrone, Vice President
Jamie Gregory, Deputy Chief Lobbyist

November 20, 2009

Senator Christopher Dodd, Chairman
Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Dodd,

On behalf of the 1.2 million members of the National Association of Realtors®, I am writing to thank you for your leadership in improving the quality of life of American communities by introducing S. 1619, the Livable Communities Act of 2009. As real estate professionals, our livelihoods are tied to the ability of neighborhoods, communities and regions to successfully rise to the challenges which confront them daily. Therefore, we applaud this effort to better coordinate federal programs and address these challenges in a more comprehensive fashion.

S.1619 will, by creating an Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities at HUD and an Interagency Council on Sustainable Communities to coordinate the efforts of HUD, USDOT, EPA and others, manage and focus diverse federal programs more effectively on their shared goals. In addition, S.1619 establishes a grant program which will encourage communities of all sizes to cooperatively undertake comprehensive planning on a regional scale. Significantly also, S. 1619 establishes a sustainability challenge grant program that will assist regional partnerships to implement their plans.

For these reasons, the National Association of Realtors® supports S.1619 and we look forward to working with you to assure its eventual passage.

Sincerely,

Charles McMillan, CIPS, GRI
2009 President, National Association of REALTORS®