



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

The Voice For Real Estate®

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GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
Jerry Giovaniello, Senior Vice President
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November 15, 2005

The Honorable Conrad Burns
United States Senate
187 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Burns:

On behalf of the more than one million members of THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, I support your efforts to address the growing problem of methamphetamine laboratories throughout the country. We believe it is absolutely vital that assistance is provided to our state and local governments in their efforts to safely remediate 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. As a result, real estate professionals face uncertain liability concerns, and properties become stigmatized as unsafe.

The House has already taken steps to address this important issue. On April 13, 2005 the House Committee on Science favorably reported H.R. 798, the "Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act" which requires scientific research and the development of voluntary remediation guidelines and detection technologies. NAR supported the bill to protect the health and safety of property owners, residents and visitors, and to foster the re-use of properties formerly used as methamphetamine laboratories. THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® looks forward to working with you to enact similar legislation in the Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas M. Stevens".

Thomas M. Stevens, GRI, CRB, CRS
President
National Association of REALTORS®