

Dear Representative:

This week, the House is expected to vote on H.R. 956, the "Common Sense Legal Standards Reform Act of 1995." This bill improves on H.R. 10, by extending punitive damages limitations to all civil defendants, including large and small businesses, local governments, charitable and service organizations.

Meaningful tort reform will prove beneficial to America's consumers and taxpayers by discouraging people from filing frivolous lawsuits. The NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® supports prompt and fair compensations for legitimate claims, but we all pay the price of runaway punitive damage awards. Punitive damage awards jeopardize the financial well being of many industries and are a particular threat to the future of small businesses.

On behalf of the over 750,000 members of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, we urge your support for H.R. 956 to enact legal reform that provides fairness for all.

Sincerely,

Edmund G. Woods
1995 President

[NOTE: President Clinton Vetoed this bill 5/2/96]