



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

*The Voice For Real Estate®*

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May 16, 2005

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby  
Chairman  
Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of over one million members of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® (NAR), I am writing to express our support for Brian Montgomery to be Assistant Secretary for Housing/FHA Commissioner at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NAR represents a wide variety of housing industry professionals committed to the development and preservation of our nation's housing stock and making it available to the widest range of potential homebuyers.

Mr. Montgomery has continuously served President Bush in a variety of senior level positions for the past 10 years. Most recently, he served as a member of the President's senior staff as Deputy Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary. In this capacity, he helped managed the President's relationship with the entire Cabinet and all Federal agencies in the Executive Branch. As Cabinet Secretary, he worked closely with HUD Secretaries Martinez and Jackson on several policy initiatives, including efforts to increase minority homeownership, the single family tax credit, RESPA, and the zero down payment proposal. He also participated in developing policy on other issues including GSE reform.

In addition, Mr. Montgomery served then Governor Bush for more than three years as a senior-level director at the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs—one of the largest and most programmatically diverse state housing agencies in the country.

Mr. Montgomery's appointment to progressively more responsible positions demonstrates his close working relationship with the President, which will serve him well at HUD. His organizational and communication skills and his knowledge of housing issues from the state perspective will also serve him well as more responsibility for initiating and administering housing programs devolves to the States.

NAR believes that Mr. Montgomery will bring the same level of energy that he has exhibited in previous positions to the broad spectrum of single-family and multifamily housing issues he will confront as Assistant Secretary for Housing. Given his experience and skills, NAR believes he is an excellent choice to assist Secretary Jackson in developing and implementing the housing policies that are of critical importance to our nation.

The Association welcomes the nomination of Brian Montgomery to be Assistant Secretary for Housing/FHA Commissioner for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and we appreciate your consideration of our endorsement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Mansell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "M".

Al Mansell  
President

cc: Senator Paul S. Sarbanes  
Ranking Member