

Local REALTORS® Help Plan National Real Estate Road to Recovery

Richard Eimicke Association Executive of The Northern Fairfield County Association of Realtors® and local Realtor® Allyson Bernard joined approximately 8,000 Realtors® who gathered in Washington during the week of May 11-16 to inspire action on Capitol Hill that will help stabilize the real estate market and encourage economic recovery as part of the National Association of Realtors® Midyear Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo.

Bernard a former Regional VP for the National Assoc. of REALTORS along with Eimicke and other Connecticut Realtors® met with U.S. Senators Dodd and Lieberman as well as Representative Chris Murphy while in DC to reiterate the importance of this issue and discuss other subjects, as well, including protecting the mortgage interest deduction, facilitating short sales, easing limitations on mortgage availability and encouraging mortgage reform, ensuring affordable insurance through small business health care plans, and initiating effective energy efficiency legislation.

During the week, Bernard participated in NAR's "Real Estate Summit: Advancing the U.S. Economy," an all-day program of sessions to address and meet head-on the challenge facing today's residential and commercial real estate markets. Realtors® were joined by a number of policy leaders and industry experts, including U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan; Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. Director Sheila Bair; former Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan; and former U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert Reich.

Eimicke, said Realtors® believe in a multifaceted approach to stabilization that includes making mortgages more affordable and available, reducing foreclosures and incentivizing home buyers. To this last point, he added that the \$8,000 tax credit currently available to first-time buyers through November 30, 2009, will help thousands of consumers take advantage of opportunities in today's housing market and realize the dream of homeownership.

Pictured are Senator Dodd with Connecticut Realtors Gene and Linda Fercodini and Ken Delvecchio

