

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Turnquist Joins Thousands of Realtors® to Advance Key Housing Issues and Priorities in Nation's Capital**

**Santa Cruz, May 20**– Fighting for all current and prospective American home and property owners, more than 8,500 Realtors® stormed Washington, D.C., this week to urge action on various real estate issues during the 2015 REALTOR® Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo. Randy Turnquist, President of the Santa Cruz County Association of Realtors® joined fellow Realtors® from every corner of the country to attend the meetings and visit lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Realtor® attendees, members of the National Association of Realtors®, focused on several major issues pertaining to real estate during the legislative meetings. Top importance was access to safe and affordable credit for qualified buyers and protecting real estate-related tax policies, both of which are vital to homeownership and therefore the national economy.

“It is crucial that our lawmakers understand the issues. Realtors® lead the way in advocating for home and property owners and we did that here in our nation’s capital with our elected officials,” said Turnquist. “Policies that are good for homeowners and property owners, not only strengthens our communities, but also helps families build stable futures and drives a strong economy.”

While he was in Washington, Turnquist, and several other local Realtors® met with Congressman Sam Farr to influence policy decisions that will directly affect consumers’ ability to buy, sell and own real estate. Specifically, Turnquist urged Congressman Farr to preserve current real estate-related tax policies (such as the mortgage interest deduction) and extend the Mortgage Forgiveness Tax Relief Act, which stops under-water homeowners from receiving excessive income tax bills on forgiven home loan debt.

Other pressing matters included nationwide data security standards and the Mortgage Choice Act to allow consumers a greater choice when choosing a lender.

“It is very important our elected officials know the impact they have on our communities and nation as a whole,” said Turnquist. “Through the strength of the Realtor® Party, we have made it known where we stand on key issues that affect home owners, buyers, sellers and investors right here in Santa Cruz County.”

During the week-long conference, Realtors® participated in sessions about critical housing issues, mortgage finance and real estate investment issues facing consumers today. Real estate is the biggest investment most people make in their life. It’s important for Realtors® and consumers to stay up to date with legislation affecting this investment.

The Santa Cruz County Association of REALTORS®, Inc. (SCCAR) founded in 1911 with over 1,100 members, is dedicated to the advancement of professionalism in real estate and the preservation of private property rights in Santa Cruz County.

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