



Pennsylvania
Association of
REALTORS®

*The Voice for Real Estate
in Pennsylvania*

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November 9, 2009

The Honorable Peter Daley
Chair, House Commerce Committee
214 Irvis Office Bldg.
PO Box 202049
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2033

Dear Representative Daley:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Association of REALTORS® (PAR) and its more than 30,000 members, I am writing in support of House Bill 1776 (Bear, R-Lancaster). The bill creates a rebate program for consumers purchasing a home or making substantial renovations to their primary residence through June 2011.

A strong belief of PAR is that the American dream of homeownership should be the reality for all Pennsylvanians. Homeownership is an integral component to maintaining Pennsylvania's vibrant communities. According to the National Association of REALTORS®, several research studies indicate that homeownership adds to the value of communities, has positive effects on children, and even contributes to increased voter participation rates

In the current economic climate, Pennsylvanian's, as well as the housing market, would benefit from the rebate program. New homeowners would receive a \$10,000 rebate for new construction and a \$2,500 rebate for the purchase of existing housing stock. PAR is working with the National Association of REALTORS® to extend the Federal Housing Tax Credit through 2010. Coupled with the \$8,000 tax credit, the rebate would give prospective first time homeowners the added push to invest in homeownership. For those that are thinking about upgrading or downsizing, the incentives would give them more confidence during these uncertain times.

Many homeowners are interested in fixing-up their home instead of purchasing a new one. HB 1776 includes this segment of the population by offering up to \$5,000 for such renovations. Home improvements are another essential way to stimulate the local economy by hiring contractors and purchasing building supplies.



In closing, PAR looks forward to continued dialogue with you and other members of the House Commerce Committee regarding HB 1776. We believe that incentives like those contained in HB 1776 will help rebuild the housing market in Pennsylvania at a faster rate and continue to make Pennsylvania a great place to live.

Sincerely,
Derenda Updegrave
Director, Government Affairs

Cc: House Commerce Committee
Representative John Bear