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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REALTORS® Oppose 1 Percent Sales Tax Increase

Glen Carbon, IL—The Greater Gateway Association of REALTORS® (GGAR) announced today their opposition to the proposed 1 percent sales tax increase that will be placed on the Madison County April 5, 2011 ballot.

“Consumers in Madison County do not need new taxes to burden them in these trying times - a sales tax increase will dampen an already struggling economy,” stated GGAR President and Chief Operating Officer Al Suguitan. “If a property owner receives a tax rebate of \$200, but due to increases in property assessment or tax levies the taxes on the property go up \$250, there is no rebate,” Suguitan said.

Although the motive behind the tax is to provide additional funding for schools, until assessments are market-driven, there is no guarantee the rebate will cover the increased fees associated with the sales tax increase.

The referendum that residents are voting on does not guarantee a property tax abatement. Each school district board receiving the money will have to vote on that property tax abatement every year. The school boards choosing not to vote for the abatement if the referendum passes will not be required to provide taxpayers with their rebate, and taxpayers will be left paying the same in property taxes in addition to the proposed sales tax.

The Greater Gateway Association of REALTORS® serves nearly 1,000 REALTOR® and affiliate members in the southwestern Illinois region including the counties of Bond, Calhoun, Fayette, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe, and Montgomery. The association strives to promote education, professionalism, and ethical conduct in the real estate industry; to advocate for the protection of property rights; to assist in providing Americans safe and affordable housing; and to further the interest of property ownership. Visit us at www.gatewayrealtors.com.