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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REALTORS® Make Voices Heard

Glen Carbon, IL— Members of the Greater Gateway Association of REALTORS® (GGAR) recently attended the Illinois Association of REALTORS® (IAR) 35th Annual Capitol Conference in Springfield to meet with state lawmakers about issues affecting homeowners and the real estate industry and remind them that the housing market plays a key role in strengthening state and local economies.

In addition to participating in briefings about important issues facing the industry, attendees met with their local government officials to discuss topics on IAR's 2011 legislative agenda. Among the priorities are two bills that would grant Illinois municipalities unnecessary authority when it comes to foreclosed and abandoned properties.

IAR opposes House Bill 1109, which would give municipalities unlimited authority to pass any rules, regulations, and fees as they see fit regarding vacant property and House Bill 760, which would allow all municipalities to establish a new entity (Land Bank Authority) that allows local governments to create a separate real estate corporation or develop any real estate within its jurisdiction.

"Buying a home is one of the biggest investments people make. It's important that their property rights are protected and that they stay informed about issues affecting their home, especially additional fees and restrictions," stated GGAR Chairman of the Board Jenni Beck, e-PRO, GRI. "The IAR Capitol Conference is a great opportunity for Illinois REALTORS® to play a role in influencing legislation important to property owners and ensure our voices are heard," she added.

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.