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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REALTORS® Work to Reshape Real Estate

Glen Carbon, Illinois — The Greater Gateway Association of REALTORS® (GGAR) brought local real estate issues from Southwestern Illinois to Washington, D.C. when REALTORS® from the area met with Congressmen Costello and Shimkus at the National Association of REALTORS'® Midyear Legislative Meetings and Trade Expo May 10 through 15.

During the meetings, REALTORS® from across the country gathered with public policy officials, industry representatives, and academic thought leaders to generate solutions for the challenges facing today's real estate market and the general economy.

"These meetings are important not only to address the challenges facing today's real estate market, but also to make lawmakers aware of what consumers are struggling with when it comes to homeownership," said Rick Edwards, GGAR's Chairman of the Board.

The meetings with Congressmen Costello and Shimkus focused on issues vital to the real estate market in Southwestern Illinois, including ensuring that homeowners have access to affordable property insurance, reforming the secondary mortgage market so that financing remains available and affordable for potential homeowners, and ensuring that the Federal Housing Administration continues to help first-time buyers become homeowners.

The Greater Gateway Association of REALTORS® serves over 1,200 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 continue to be an advocate for the protection of property rights, to assist in providing Americans with safe and affordable housing, and to further the interest of residential and other real estate property ownership.

The National Association of Realtors®, "The Voice for Real Estate," is America's largest trade association, representing 1.1 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.