



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bay East REALTORS® Advocate for Affordability, Insurance Relief, and Fair Housing During Homeownership Month

CONTACT:

Devin Davis
(925)-730-3269
devind@bayeast.org

Pleasanton, California (June 4, 2025) - Bay East REALTORS® Champion Housing Affordability, Insurance Relief, and Fair Housing Protections During Capitol Hill Visits.

REALTOR® advocacy in Washington, D.C. and at local city halls works together to solve housing challenges.

In recognition of National Homeownership Month this June, Bay East Association of REALTORS® 2025 President Tracey Esling led a team of REALTORS® from southern and eastern Alameda County to Washington, D.C. to advocate for federal legislation aimed at easing the housing affordability crisis.

Their meetings with Congresswoman Lateefa Simon (CA-12) and Congressman Eric Swalwell (CA-14) were part of the National Association of REALTORS®' annual REALTOR® Legislative Meetings. Thousands of REALTORS® from across the country gathered to advance federal policies that support housing access, fair housing, and responsible homeownership.

The Bay East delegation focused on key federal issues that directly affect homebuyers, homeowners, and home sellers in Alameda County: the rising cost of homeowners insurance, the need for stronger Fair Housing protections, the shortage of housing inventory, and preserving access to affordable mortgage financing.

These efforts align with Bay East's Housing and Public Policy Statement, which guides the association's advocacy at the federal, state, and local levels.

To help ease the region's housing shortage, REALTORS® advocated for:

- More Homes on the Market Act (H.R. 1340): Reduces capital gains taxes for long-term homeowners to encourage inventory turnover.
- Housing Supply and Affordability Act (H.R. 2840 / S. 1299): Reduces regulatory barriers to new housing development.

- Revitalizing Downtowns and Main Streets Act (H.R. 2410): Promotes adaptive reuse of vacant commercial properties for residential use.

“These bills address the challenges we see every day across the Bay Area,” said Esling. “We need more homes and fewer roadblocks to ownership.”

REALTORS® also supported the Disaster Resiliency and Coverage Act (H.R. 1105), which provides grants and tax credits for home hardening and mitigation projects to lower disaster risk and insurance premiums.

“High insurance costs can make homeownership unaffordable,” said Esling. “This legislation helps homeowners protect their properties and reduce costs.”

Bay East REALTORS® backed the Fair and Equal Housing Act, which would add sexual orientation and gender identity to the Fair Housing Act. This reflects REALTOR® values and the diversity of Bay Area communities.

“Discrimination has no place in our housing markets,” said Esling.

The team also advocated for the Uplifting First-Time Homebuyers Act (H.R. 3526) and called for preserving a government backstop for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to ensure long-term mortgage stability.

While REALTORS focused on Capitol Hill this week, Bay East continues to advocate locally-supporting zoning reforms, faster permitting, and housing opportunities for all.

“Whether we’re in Washington or speaking at a city council meeting in Alameda County, we are always working for the people we serve,” said Esling.

June is National Homeownership Month, and the National Association of REALTORS® is highlighting the financial, social, and community benefits of homeownership through outreach efforts and the “Plant Roots, Grow Wealth” campaign. “Our trip to Capitol Hill is another way we’re celebrating Homeownership month by addressing bedrock issues that impact the ability of everyone to become homeowners,” Esling said.

About the Bay East Association of REALTORS®

The Bay East Association of REALTORS® is a professional trade association serving more than 6,000 residential and commercial real estate professionals throughout the San Francisco Bay Area by providing programs and services to enhance their ability to conduct business with integrity and competence. Bay East offers access to the Multiple Listing Service, professional

development training, advocacy to protect private property rights, and promotes homeownership and a variety of networking opportunities and events.

###