



April 12, 2014

Senate Government Operations Committee  
Vermont State Legislature

Madame Chair,

The Vermont Association of Realtors® would like to reiterate its support of the OPR Bill, specifically the section regarding the Real Estate Commission. Our Association has been very involved in the REC's process during the past year. We publicized the REC's public hearings to our members and were successful in turning out a diverse number of our members at the public hearings. We also have at least four members plus staff that attend each REC meeting on a monthly basis. This has allowed our Association to stay informed throughout the formulation of the REC section of the OPR Bill.

The Vermont Association of Realtors® currently has 1650 Realtor® members and is governed by an elected Board of Directors consisting of at least one representative from the 12 local geographic boards. We also have a very active Government Affairs Committee that also consists of at least one representative from each of the 12 local geographic boards. Each local board is in turn governed by their own elected board of directors. All of these association bodies have been actively informed of the proposed new Continuing Education (CE) requirements spelled out in the OPR Bill.

We also have a slate of regular newsletters that are sent to our various constituencies, including Brokers. We publicized the OPR Bill in at least 6 separate emails as well as on our Facebook page and website during the past year. Finally, it was discussed at length during our Annual Legislative Luncheon that was held on February 11, 2014.

It is our sincere desire to see the REC section of the OPR Bill pass as originally written in order to help *raise the bar* within the Vermont Broker community. Thank you very much for your consideration and we sincerely appreciate the enormous amount of time and effort that you give the citizens of Vermont.

  
Isaac Chavez  
Chief Executive Officer  
Vermont Realtors®