

Legislative Update
Tennessee Association of Realtors®
For the week ending April 4, 2008

TAR ISSUES CALL TO ACTION

As mentioned in previous updates, HB 4227 was requested by the City of Columbia to enact an adequate facilities tax of \$1.50 per square foot of new residential development and \$3.00 per square foot for new commercial development. This request for new taxes is in addition to the impact fee which the city of Columbia asked the General Assembly to authorize in 1994. The legislation is once again scheduled to be heard in the House Local Government Subcommittee on Wednesday, April 9. TAR continues to work with the Homebuilders in an effort to stop this bill from becoming law.

On Monday, April 7, TAR will issue a Call for Action (CFA) and ask Realtors® to contact members of the House Local Government Subcommittee and tell them of our opposition to the bill. We believe that an adequate facilities tax will have a negative impact on housing costs and economic development in an already depressed market and if implemented would add an additional \$3,000 to an average new home. This CFA will be targeted at those members who sit on the House Local Government Subcommittee and will go out to about 4,000 Realtors in Tennessee.

GOVERNOR TO SIGN COPPER THEFT LEGISLATION

The organization's first major legislative success in 2008 was on March 24 when the House of Representatives passed the legislation to regulate the scrap metal industry 92-0-2. The House debated the issue, discussed whether or not the stronger local ordinances would remain intact (the position TAR lobbied for) and then passed bill with over 70 sponsors. Governor Bredesen will sign the legislation on Monday, April 7, and will hold a ceremonial bill signing after the legislative session adjourns. TAR has posted several of the news clips from when the bill passed at <http://tarnet.com/govaff/scrapmetalnews.php> if you'd like to read what the media had to say about the legislation.

There are a few specific members that should be mentioned as TAR moves forward from this issue. Primary bill sponsors Senator Jim Kyle (D, Memphis) and Representative Mike McDonald (D, Portland) were the catalysts of the legislation followed closely by the members of the summer legislative study committee: Senator Steve Sutherland (R, Morristown), Senator Dwayne Bunch (R, Cleveland), Representative Jon Lundberg (R, Bristol) and Representative John Deberry (D, Memphis.) Senator Tim Burchett (R, Knoxville), Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey (R, Blountville), Senator Paul Stanley (R, Memphis), Representative Eric Watson (R, Cleveland), Representative Henry Fincher (D, Cookeville), House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh (D, Covington) and Representative Janice Sontany (D, Nashville) were some of the critically important supporters and advisors to the legislation. Behind the scenes Lauren Agee, Senator Kyle's Policy Advisor, was also instrumental.

The coalition of the Realtors®, the Homebuilders Association of Tennessee and the Tennessee Chiefs of Police Association was highly successful in shaping the legislation and making sure it passed in the form we wanted it. **While this new bill may not curb all copper and scrap metal**

theft in Tennessee, we believe it requires the scrap metal industry to be a partner in trying to stop the practice and hopefully will give law enforcement a few tools to find the criminals.

TAR PUBLISHES BILL TRACKING UPDATE

Each year TAR tracks hundreds of pieces of legislation that could have an impact on the real estate industry. This bill list is reviewed and positions are taken by the Governmental Affairs Committee and then approved by the TAR Board of Directors. From time to time TAR publishes an update of these bills that are being tracked. If you are interested in keeping up with all the legislation TAR is monitoring, supporting and opposing go to <http://tarnet.com/govaff/TARBillTrack040408.pdf> and download the current update.