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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NC REALTORS® Statement on House Bill 186

Raleigh, North Carolina (February 23, 2017) – Since its passage, NC REALTORS® have closely watched the impact that Session Law 2016-3, commonly known as House Bill 2, would have on our state and its local communities. Unfortunately, we have seen unintended economic consequences that continue to harm our state and its image across the country. North Carolina has lost revenues from forfeited corporate relocations, major sporting events and convention venue changes, and most importantly, lost expansion opportunities by businesses already located in our state.

While NC REALTORS® did not take a formal position on House Bill 2, we have consistently communicated with legislators and stakeholders that the REALTOR® Code of Ethics expressly prohibits discrimination against individuals due to race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Thanks to the support of legislative leaders on both sides of the aisle, working in tandem with stakeholders representing the state's business community, including NC REALTORS®, a compromise proposal has been presented through House Bill 186, sponsored by Representatives Chuck McGrady, Marvin Lucas, Ken Goodman, and Ted Davis.

"NC REALTORS® commend the Legislature for its leadership on this solution and believes this compromise is reasonable and protects all citizens of North Carolina. This will continue the prosperity of our state and it's economic future," said NC REALTORS® Chief Executive Officer Andrea Bushnell. "REALTORS® have consistently supported policies of inclusion in both housing and our profession. We are especially happy to see that specific language has been included in the bill which expressly and explicitly prohibits anti-discrimination in housing decisions. We look forward to working with all parties, the House, Senate, Governor, republicans and democrats alike, to see a reasonable compromise become law."

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ABOUT NC REALTORS®

NC REALTORS® is a non-profit trade association, representing more than 38,000 members and 49 local associations throughout the state of North Carolina. NC REALTORS® serves to promote the success of its members and enhance the quality of life in North Carolina by promoting housing affordability and the protection of private property rights. Founded in 1921, the association is headquartered in Greensboro, with an additional office in Raleigh. For more information on the association, visit ncrealtors.org.