

New Canaan Realtors trek to D.C. to talk housing

While Realtors from across the country convened in Washington, D.C., to attend the Realtors 2013 Midyear Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo, members from the New Canaan Board of Realtors met with lawmakers on Capitol Hill to discuss the housing issues critical to this community.

"One of the most important aspects of the Realtors Midyear Legislative Meetings is that Realtors actively engage with their representatives on Capitol Hill," said Leslie Razook, New Canaan Board President. "Realtors met with their senators and representatives to communicate the issues critical to Realtors' businesses, communities and the consumers they represent. Realtors all across

the country were advocating public policies that promote sustainable homeownership and help move the real estate market forward toward a full recovery."

Razook's meetings with U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal and U.S. Rep. Jim Himes focused on issues impacting the real estate market, including preserving the mission and purpose of the Federal Housing Administration, protecting homeownership tax policies such as the mortgage interest deduction, and ensuring that mortgage financing is available and affordable to creditworthy home buyers.

As Congress pursues comprehensive tax reform, Razook urged the Connecticut legislators to continue to support current tax laws for homeown-

ership and real estate investment.

"Homeownership has had long-standing support in this country because of its many benefits to individuals and families, communities and to the nation's economy," Razook said. "Realtors remain committed to preserving housing-related provisions that help facilitate homeownership, build wealth for families and provide stability to communities."

Razook urged specific support for maintaining the current deduction for home mortgage interest. "The mortgage interest deduction helps many families become home owners, which is the foundation for a healthy middle class, and it is vital to the health and stability of housing markets,"

Razook said. "Altering this policy or any others related to homeownership could marginalize current and future home buyers, as well as jeopardize the emerging housing recovery and the overall economy."

The New Canaan Board of Realtors, founded in 1951, has been serving real estate professionals and residents of New Canaan for more than 60 years. In partnership with the Connecticut Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors, the board provides industry information, political advocacy, education and benefits for its members.