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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF Real Estate Investment Trusts®

May 5, 2009

The Honorable Peter Welch U.S. House of Representatives 1404 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Welch:

I am writing to express the support of the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts (NAREIT) for H.R. 1778, the Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance Program Act (REEPPA), which you introduced on March 30.

NAREIT is the representative voice for U.S. real estate investment trusts (REITs) and publicly traded real estate companies worldwide. Members are REITs and other businesses that own, operate and finance income-producing real estate, as well as those firms and individuals who advise, study and service these businesses.

The REIT and publicly traded real estate industry commends you for this legislation and for your commitment to encourage a more sustainable built environment by enhancing energy conservation in buildings. We are confident of our industry's ability to continue to build, renovate, retrofit and manage commercial buildings in the most energy-efficient and environmentally responsible way possible. The targeted incentives contained in REEPPA will clearly assist with this work and should accelerate the retrofitting and development practices increasingly underway.

As I am sure you do, NAREIT seeks for real estate development, investment and operations to be part of the solution to the problem presented by the inefficient use of carbon-based energy. We believe H.R. 1778 is an integral part of the way forward, and we look forward to working with you in the 111th Congress to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Wechsler President and CEO