



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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ENTERPRISE JOINS REP. PERLMUTTER, SEN. WHITEHOUSE TO DISCUSS GREEN ACT, ENERGY EFFICIENCY HOUSING ACT

(Columbia, Md., July 9, 2009) – On July 8, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. (Enterprise) joined Representatives Ed Perlmutter (D-Colo.), Jim Himes (D-Conn.) and Paul Hodes (D-N.H.) along with Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) to discuss the importance of green affordable housing. During the session, they discussed the Green Resources for Energy Efficient Neighborhoods (GREEN) Act (HR 2336), which Rep. Perlmutter recently reintroduced in the U.S. House, and the companion measure, the Energy Efficiency Housing Act of 2009 (S. 1379), which Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) recently introduced in the U.S. Senate.

“This legislation proves that it is easy to be green. This bill helps revitalize our economy by making energy efficiency practices more affordable, accessible and achievable by consumers, businesses and government entities. By prioritizing energy efficiency practices, we can ease the woes of homeowners, lenders, financial markets, builders and our environment,” Rep. Perlmutter said.

This legislation is modeled after recommendations provided by Enterprise senior leadership and raises the bar for energy and environmental performance in affordable housing.

Dana Bourland, vice president of Enterprise Green Initiatives, and Dvora Lovinger, Enterprise senior director of government affairs, were invited to the roundtable to discuss the impact of rising energy costs on low- and moderate-income families and how the greening of affordable housing not only reduces costs but also creates healthier environments and employment opportunities.

“The federal government has an important role to play in accelerating the transformation of affordable housing,” Bourland said. “With Congress’s support, communities can deliver many more resources to bring the rewards of green methods, materials and financing to the affordable housing sector.”

The GREEN Act and the Energy Efficiency Housing Act of 2009 encourage the use of energy efficiency in federal housing programs, create an energy efficiency and conservation demonstration program for project-based Section 8 multifamily housing developments and establish a revolving loan fund for states and tribes to help homeowners and apartment building owners improve energy efficiency through renewable energy and other methods. These bills thoughtfully build on lessons learned through Enterprise’s Green Communities initiative, which provides financial incentives and technical assistance to affordable housing developers around the country that build green healthy homes for families with low incomes in smart locations.

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“Through our experience over the last five years implementing Green Communities, we know it is possible to bring home the benefits of the green economy to low-income families and communities and for all housing to cost effectively deliver results that are significantly healthier and more economically and environmentally responsive,” Bourland said.

Since the inception of Green Communities in 2004, Enterprise has invested \$650 million to create more than 14,500 green affordable homes in 350 developments in 30 states that all meet the Green Communities Criteria. Enterprise also has trained more than 4,000 housing professionals in green affordable development and advised more than 20 federal, state and local housing agencies develop green affordable housing policies. The impact of this work has enabled developers in all climates and regions of the United States to build and rehabilitate homes that are healthier, more energy efficient and better for the environment – without compromising affordability.

Enterprise encourages Congress to quickly pass this important legislation.

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Enterprise is a leading provider of the development capital and expertise it takes to create decent, affordable homes and rebuild communities. For more than 25 years, Enterprise has introduced neighborhood solutions through public-private partnerships with financial institutions, governments, community organizations and others that share our vision. Enterprise has raised and invested more than \$10 billion in equity, grants and loans to help build or preserve more than 250,000 affordable rental and for-sale homes to create vital communities. Enterprise is currently investing in communities at a rate of \$1 billion a year. Visit www.enterprisecommunity.org and www.enterprisecommunity.com to learn more about Enterprise’s efforts to build communities and opportunity.