



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Enterprise Joins Rep. Perlmutter, Other Green Building Experts to Discuss G.R.E.E.N Act

(Columbia, Md., March 26, 2009) – On Tuesday, March 24, representatives from Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. (Enterprise) joined Representative Ed Perlmutter (D-Colo.) and a small group of organizations equally concerned about energy efficiency and green building for a roundtable discussion on changes and updates to the Green Resources for Energy Efficient Neighborhoods (G.R.E.E.N.) Act. The G.R.E.E.N. Act, which was introduced last year in the 110th Congress by Rep. Perlmutter and modeled after recommendations provided by Enterprise senior leadership, raises the bar for energy and environmental performance in affordable housing. Rep. Perlmutter plans to re-introduce a similar bill this year in the 111th Congress.

Dana Bourland, vice president of Enterprise Green Initiatives, and Dvora Lovinger, Enterprise senior director of government affairs, were invited to the roundtable to discuss how the G.R.E.E.N. Act can be improved in light of a new focus on energy efficiency by both President Obama and HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. At the meeting they discussed ways to streamline the rating system used in green building as well as what revisions are necessary to ensure the bill will best complement the recently passed stimulus legislation, which includes funding to retrofit affordable housing.

The G.R.E.E.N. Act will help ensure that community development organizations have the resources and expertise necessary to successfully incorporate green elements into affordable housing developments. The bill thoughtfully builds on lessons learned through the Enterprise Green Communities[®] initiative, which provides financial incentives and technical assistance to affordable housing developers around the country that build smart, environmentally sustainable homes for families with low incomes.

Since the inception of Green Communities in 2004, Enterprise has invested \$615 million in grants, loans and equity to create more than 14,500 highly sustainable green affordable homes in 320 developments in 30 states. Enterprise also has trained more than 3,000 housing professionals in green affordable development and advised more than 20 states and cities in developing more environmentally sustainable affordable housing policies. The impact of this work has enabled developers in all climatic regions of the United States to build and rehabilitate homes that are healthier, more energy efficient and better for the environment – without compromising affordability.

Rep. Perlmutter hopes to re-introduce the G.R.E.E.N. Act prior to the spring recess, which begins on April 3. Also in the near future, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) plans to introduce a companion bill in the U.S. Senate.

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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 a quarter million 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.