



For Immediate Release

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Statement from Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. **Enterprise Mourns the Passing of Senator Mathias**

(COLUMBIA, Md., February 1, 2010) – Enterprise mourns the passing of Senator Charles Mac Mathias (R-MD), who during his 26-year congressional career fought for fair housing, civil rights and protecting the environment. Sen. Mathias also served on the Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. Board of Trustees from 1982 until 2001.

He championed causes that improved the quality of life for all people. In 1965, he traveled to Selma, Ala., to meet Martin Luther King Jr. and helped draft an open-housing law prohibiting racial discrimination. Then, in the 1980s, Sen. Mathias worked hard to pass legislation that established the Nehemiah Program, which, for more than a decade, provided moderate-income homebuyers an opportunity to purchase brand new homes. In addition, this bill created affordable housing all over America; particularly within Baltimore where more than 600 units of affordable housing for first-time homebuyers were built.

Sen. Mathias also was an early environmental advocate who proposed legislation to protect the Chesapeake Bay, Antietam National Battlefield and Assateague Island. In addition, he was the primary sponsor of the bill that created the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

Sen. Mathias will be greatly missed.

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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.