



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 9, 2014

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Oregon REALTORS® Committed to Ethical Continuing Education

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SALEM, OR – In a column published on Oregonlive.com on January 3, 2014, 22% of Oregon real estate licensees were found to have failed a recent Oregon Real Estate Agency audit of continuing education requirements. This is a figure that surprised and concerned us. However, given our Association's commitment to ongoing professional development and ethical standards, we felt it deserved some context.

The Oregon Association of REALTORS® spearheaded the legislation currently in place to make Oregon a state with one of the highest standards in the country for continuing education for real estate licensees. Raising these standards improved the professionalism of all licensees, not just REALTORS®, and, in turn, benefitted any consumer engaged in a real estate transaction across the state. REALTORS® have a long standing tradition of raising the bar within the real estate industry and the education rule changes in 2012 are just the most recent example of this.

REALTORS®, licensees who are members of the National Association of REALTORS®, additionally ascribe to a national Code of Ethics (the 100 year anniversary of which was in 2013). This Code predates any state license law and most states modeled their license laws after the Code of Ethics. It is why we are an organization that is built upon an ever higher trained and better educated group of professionals who believe – at our very core – in ethical behavior.

While the Code is what separates a REALTOR® from a regular licensee, REALTORS® are still human. And with the start of any new system, there will be a learning curve as everyone figures out how to comply with the new rules. While the report's findings only represent an initial, one month sample, we expect to see a much lower percentage of noncompliance in the future. As professionals, we strive to police ourselves and get better before corrective action is needed.

The Oregon Association of REALTORS® does not condone fraudulent activity in any way. Anyone who is a member of our organization who is found to have provided erroneous information will have to contend with a potential ethics violation as well. To this end, we are working to educate our more than 13,000 REALTOR® members across the State on how to properly attain, record, and report their biennial continuing education credits. We welcome continued review of this program in our ongoing positive relationship with the Oregon Real Estate Agency.

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The Oregon Association of REALTORS® was established in 1932 to organize the real estate profession in Oregon. Today, the Association is a force for education and a business and legislative advocate for free enterprise and private property rights in Oregon.

The term REALTOR® is a trademark owned by the National Association of REALTORS® and protected by federal law. When used, it should always be printed in all caps, followed by a registered mark.