

# Capitol Access

A look at who's who on the Hill when it comes to lobbying for a second housing stimulus. **BY SARAH YAUSSE**

**W**ith an economic stimulus sequel on the fast track on Capitol Hill, special interest groups from sectors as diverse as aviation and banking are trying to elbow their way closer to the front of a long line of industries in need of some help from their lawmaker friends.

Faced with that kind of steep competition for a top slot on Congress's priority list, the Fix Housing First coalition, which has been pushing for another, more robust home buyer tax credit and an aggressive mortgage-rate buy down, has upped its lobbying efforts and launched a media campaign to generate grassroots

support. The strategy aims to pressure key congressional leaders into securing its agenda a spot in the stimulus package expected to be passed in January when President-elect Barack Obama takes office.

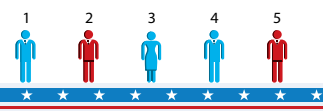
Ken Gear, Pulte Homes' vice president of government affairs and a key coalition lobbyist, says that the housing crisis is increasingly a key concern for many on the Hill. "I don't think we've talked to anyone who's challenged the need to fix housing," he notes. "It's a question of finding the right solution."

However, for many lawmakers, the right solution is looking

more like a foreclosure prevention plan and less like the coalition's proposed remedy. Government insiders are betting that the housing measures included in the package will be limited to a foreclosure forbearance plan and rate buy down along the lines of the Treasury Department's recent 4.5 percent proposed rate cut.

So, to get a grasp of where much of the coalition's lobbying efforts have been concentrated to date—and where they're likely to remain in 2009—BIG BUILDER put together a congressional cheat sheet that highlights the key lawmakers with a heavy hand in the fate of the coalition's proposals. **BB**

## Key Congressional Leaders



**Harry Reid**  
D-Nev. Senate majority leader

With Nevada at the epicenter of the housing crisis, Reid has been active on the housing legislation front. A major supporter of the housing rescue act, Reid continues pushing for more aggressive mortgage modifications to prevent foreclosures.

**Nancy Pelosi**  
D-Calif. Speaker of the House

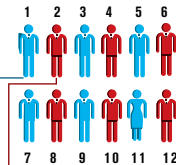
Pelosi has been big on the housing scene, involved in measures to reform Fannie and Freddie, modernize the FHA, and help neighborhoods hurt by foreclosures. She also was a major backer for the housing rescue and foreclosure prevention act.

**Steny Hoyer**  
D-Md. House majority leader

Like Reid and Pelosi, Hoyer has been a proponent of housing legislation, particularly the housing rescue package. Most recently, he called on the Treasury to use TARP funds to stem foreclosures.

## Senate Finance Committee:

With issues of taxation falling under the jurisdiction of this committee, a home buyer tax credit measure would need support from its members to be enacted. A major plus is that Grassley's got a unique working relationship with Baucus that helps get 'er done.



**Max Baucus**  
D-Mont. Chairman

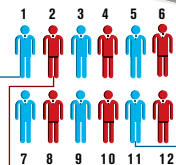
Baucus supported the housing rescue bill as help for homeowners, home buyers, and home builders. In fact, he quoted the Chinese proverb, "The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home," on the Senate floor. He also is a senior member on the Joint Committee on Taxation.

**Chuck Grassley**  
R-Iowa Ranking member

Grassley has worked with Baucus to forward several bipartisan measures with implications for housing. He supported tax deductions for mortgage premiums, tax rebate checks as an economic stimulus, and the first-time home buyer tax credit. He serves on the Joint Committee on Taxation.

## Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee:

Similar to the House Financial Services Committee, this committee's sphere of influence is firmly entrenched in banking, housing, and development and homeownership issues. It oversees the FHA, Rural Housing Service, and Fannie and Freddie, making it the go-to source for mortgage-related legislation.



**Chris Dodd**  
D-Conn. Chairman

Housing hardly has a bigger crusader than Dodd. He was one of the legislative architects behind the July housing rescue bill. More recently, he rallied around the idea of a temporary foreclosure moratorium and has called on the committee to renew its focus on housing in the year ahead.

**Richard Shelby**  
R-Ala. Ranking member

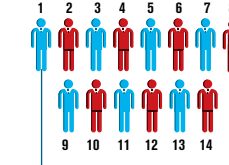
A 20-plus year member of the committee, Shelby has consistently opposed bailout legislation. However, his concern over the implications of falling home values on both the country's financial system and individual homeowners led him to support the housing package passed in July.

**Charles Schumer**  
D-N.Y.

Chairman of the subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development, Schumer should be considered a high-profile target for lobbying efforts, as his committee assignments could make him a strategic ally. In addition to his role as chairman of this committee, he also sits on the Senate Finance committee.

## House Ways & Means Committee:

When it comes to getting a home buyer tax credit enacted, the buck stops here. Although it's unlikely such a credit will squeak into the stimulus in the works, builders may get another shot at it. A big tax bill could be proposed later in 2009.

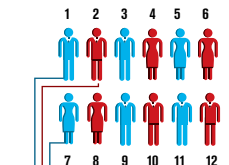


**Charlie Rangel**  
D-N.Y. Chairman

Housing ranks high on Rangel's priority list, with much of his support focused on affordable housing. With party pressure, he could move to include a home buyer tax credit as part of a broader tax bill. Rangel also is a senior member of the Joint Committee on Taxation.

**Dave Camp**  
R-Mich.

Ranking member of the subcommittee on Health, Camp will be the next ranking member of the committee, replacing Jim McCrery (R-La.). Helping the auto industry no doubt tops his list, but Michigan's housing woes are tough to ignore.



## House Financial Services Committee:

Housing and finance intersect here, so this is the place to stop and shop when pushing for housing fixes. The committee oversees laws and programs related to HUD, the Federal Reserve Bank, FDIC, and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, so both mortgage modification plans and stimulative rate cuts fall under its purview.

**Barney Frank**  
D-Mass. Chairman

Frank has been at the forefront of all recent housing issues. Housing rescue aside, he's been an avid supporter of foreclosure measures and programs to help stabilize the mortgage markets. He's also been a stark defender of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

**Spencer Bachus**  
R-Ala. Ranking member

Bachus remains committed to preventing avoidable foreclosures. However, he would like to proceed with caution. He's opposed to foreclosure forbearance proposals that permit bankruptcy judges to alter primary mortgage terms or to impose foreclosure moratoriums.

**Maxine Waters**  
D-Calif.

As chair of the subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, she is at the heart of housing's problems. In December, she introduced the Systematic Foreclosure Prevention and Mortgage Modification Act of 2008, which aims to modify troubled mortgages.

**Top Congressional Leadership:**  
1 Harry Reid (D-Nev.), Senate majority leader  
2 Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), Senate minority leader  
3 Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Speaker of the House  
4 Steny Hoyer (D-Md.), House majority leader  
5 John Boehner (R-Ohio), House minority leader

**House Ways and Means Committee Leadership:**  
1 Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), Chairman  
2 Jim McCrery (R-La.), Ranking minority member  
3 Sander Levin (D-Mich.), Chairman of subcommittee on Trade  
4 Wally Herger (R-Calif.), Ranking member of

subcommittee on Trade  
5 John Lewis (D-Ga.), Chairman of subcommittee on Oversight  
6 Jim Ramstad (R-Minn.), Ranking member of subcommittee on Oversight  
7 Forney "Pete" Stark (D-Calif.), Chairman of subcommittee on Health  
8 Dave Camp (R-Mich.), Ranking member of subcommittee on Health  
9 Michael McNulty (D-N.Y.), Chairman of subcommittee on Social Security  
10 Sam Johnson (R-Texas), Ranking member of subcommittee on Social Security  
11 Jim McDermott (D-Wash.),

Chairman of subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support  
12 Jerry Weller (R-Ill.), Ranking member of subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support  
13 Richard Neal (D-Mass.), Chairman of subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures  
14 Phil English (R-Penn.), Ranking member of subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures

**Senate Finance Committee Leadership:**  
1 Max Baucus (D-Mont.), Chairman  
2 Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Ranking member  
3 Jay Rockefeller, IV (D-W.V.), Chairman of

subcommittee on Health Care. Also on Joint Committee on Taxation.  
4 Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah), Ranking member of subcommittee on Health Care. Also on Joint Committee on Taxation.  
5 Kent Conrad (D-N.D.), Chairman of subcommittee on Taxation, IRS Oversight, and Long-term Growth. Also on Joint Committee on Taxation.  
6 Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.), Ranking member of subcommittee on Taxation, IRS Oversight, and Long-term Growth  
7 Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.), Chairman of subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure

8 Jim Bunning (R-Ky.), Ranking member of subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure  
9 John F. Kerry (D-Mass.), Chairman of subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy  
10 John Ensign (R-Nev.), Ranking member of subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy  
11 Blanche L. Lincoln (D-Ark.), Chairwoman of subcommittee on International Trade and Global Competitiveness  
12 Gordon Smith (R-Ore.), Ranking member of subcommittee on International Trade and

Global Competitiveness

**House Financial Services Committee Leadership:**  
1 Barney Frank (D-Mass.), Chairman  
2 Spencer Bachus (R-Ala.), Ranking member  
3 Paul E. Kanjorski (D-Pa.), Chairman of subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and GSEs  
4 Deborah Pryce (R-Ohio), Ranking member of subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and GSEs  
5 Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.), Chairwoman of subcommittee on Financial Institutions and

Consumer Credit  
6 Judy Bigert (R-Ill.), Ranking member of subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit  
7 Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), Chairwoman of subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity  
8 Shelley Capito (R-W.V.), Ranking member of subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity  
9 Melvin Watt (D-N.C.), Chairman of subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations  
10 Ron Paul (R-Texas), Ranking member of subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

11 Luis Guterrez (D-Ill.), Chairman of subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology  
12 Gary Miller (R-Calif.), Ranking member of subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology

**Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Leadership:**  
1 Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.), Chairman  
2 Richard Shelby (R-Ala.), Ranking member  
3 Tom Carper (D-Del.), Chairman of subcommittee on Economic Policy  
4 Jim Bunning (R-Ky.), Ranking member of

subcommittee on Economic Policy  
5 Jack Reed (D-R.I.), Chairman of subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment  
6 Wayne Allard (R-Colo.), Ranking member of subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment  
7 Evan Bayh (D-Ind.), Chairman of subcommittee on Security and International Trade and Finance  
8 Mel Martinez (R-Fla.), Ranking member of subcommittee on Security and International Trade and Finance  
9 Tim Johnson (D-S.D.), Chairman of subcommittee on Financial Institutions  
10 Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.), Ranking member of

subcommittee on Financial Institutions  
11 Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), Chairman of the subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development  
12 Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Ranking member of subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development