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State Honors Representative Eric Pettigrew of Seattle

SPOKANE, Wash.—Sept. 11, 2007— Representative Eric Pettigrew was honored last night by the State of Washington for years of service to the mission of providing affordable housing for the benefit of Washington residents. In an awards ceremony at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane that was part of the annual Housing Washington conference attended by more than 700 peers and colleagues, Rep. Pettigrew received a 2007 *Friend of Housing* award from the Washington State Housing Finance Commission for his work on several legislative initiatives in the 2007 session.

Rep. Pettigrew was the prime sponsor of HB 1401, which provides \$1 million of state funds for the creation of the Affordable Housing Land Acquisition Program. Mr. Miloscia was a co-sponsor of this legislation. This is to be a revolving fund for nonprofit affordable housing developers to purchase land and “bank it” for up to five years at low carrying costs for future affordable housing development.

Such a land acquisition program has been needed for several years as the price of available land continues to skyrocket across the state. Rep. Pettigrew was also successful in obtaining \$200,000 in the Community, Trade and Economic Development budget for technical assistance and capacity building for the growing number of Community Land Trusts in Washington state. He was responsible for an additional appropriation of \$150,000 for pre- and post-purchase counseling for first-time homebuyers, particularly programs counseling minority households. Affordable housing assistance increased by \$1.35 million as a result of his work.

The Commission received a record 49 nominations for the *Friend of Housing* awards from people working in the public, private and independent sectors of the affordable housing industry. Honorees are selected for their leadership and exceptional

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contribution to creating or supporting affordable housing, implementing housing-related programs, creating innovative financing mechanisms for housing, supporting homebuyer education or technical training efforts within the housing community and helping to solve housing problems.

Washington State Housing Finance Commission is a publicly accountable, self-supporting agency dedicated to increasing housing access and affordability and to expanding the availability of quality community services for Washington state residents.

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