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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Brokers,

I have enjoyed spending time with many of the local boards over the winter months. Your kindness and hospitality is very much appreciated. I felt welcomed and at home everywhere I visited. It is my hope to continue to make visits until I have been to each of the local boards and then start over again! It is important that you know what your Commission is doing and how we intend to provide services and support to the real estate community.

Springtime is here and along with Spring comes change! If there is one word that describes the West Virginia Real Estate Commission, it is change!!! I would like to take a few minutes of your time to go over some of the upcoming changes and how they will make an impact on the way you do business and how the Commission operates.

On-line examinations are here! We held the final state-wide exam in February and have spent the better part of the last two months preparing for the roll out of our new approach to testing. Many hours were spent with brokers, agency staff, PSI staff and others creating and reviewing questions and working through the process. I am pleased to announce that as of April 10, 2017, we are now live and testing daily in the testing centers around the state! This should be a big cost savings to all new applicants and it provides a level of flexibility that we have never had before. No more long drives to Charleston and it is cost effective for both the Commission and the applicant!

On-line License Renewal **will not** be ready in time for this year's renewal cycle. Here are a few things that you need to know as we move forward:

The database replacement project was split into two phases. Phase 1 was the design, development and implementation of the License Renewal System. This phase was set to go live on May 15, 2017. After the initial data conversion and testing we encountered several issues that ended up being show stoppers. We tried several work arounds and after consulting with the vendor and my staff, as the Executive Director, I made the decision to delay implementation until December, 2017.

Phase 2, Administration Module, will begin development in June and will run until approximately December 1, 2017. This is the back office part of the database that will allow us to track all of the individual pieces of information that we need to run the Commission smoothly. Once completed, the

Renewal Module and the Administration Module will replace our old mainframe system that has been in place for over 30 years.

I am very disappointed to bring you this news, but I want to be certain that the final product is something that both the Commission and the real estate community can be proud of.

Broker Training is currently being taught, on-line, by Bridge Valley Community and Technical College. The initial class of 9 students is already well on its way! We anticipate in-class training to begin at Blue Ridge Community and Technical College in July. Contact information is posted on the West Virginia Real Estate Commission Website and Face Book page. Please check regularly for updates!

Heather Casdorff has been hired as the Licensing and Administration Coordinator for the agency. This position will be responsible for all licensing for the Commission. Heather comes to us from the Kanawha County School System. We are very pleased to have her on board!!!

The Commission is working diligently to review the WV Real Estate License Act and Legislative Rules. There are many changes that need to be made and it is our goal to have them submitted in time to be considered during the next Legislative session. Your Commissioners have scheduled an extra meeting day, in May, to be dedicated to this task.

The District 2 and 3 ARELLO meeting is just around the corner! The meeting will be June 8 – 10 here in Charleston, at the Embassy Suites Hotel. Please go to the ARELLO website to review the agenda and register for this event. We will be hosting representatives from 28 states and 2 countries. This meeting will give us the opportunity to showcase West Virginia and our Capital City.

It is my hope that you are as excited about the changes here at the Commission as we are! It is an exciting time and I believe the changes that we are making will benefit us all! Please share this letter with your agents!

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts,

Jerry A. Forren
Executive Director