



For Immediate Release

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Equal Rights Center and Kettler Expand Accessible Housing Opportunities in Northern Virginia

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 24, 2009 — As part of its multi-year initiative to make multifamily housing accessible to people with disabilities, the Equal Rights Center (ERC) has concluded a far-reaching settlement agreement with Kettler, a Tyson's Corner, Va. based apartment and condo developer.

As a result of the agreement, Kettler will alter nearly 1,000 apartment and condo units at its properties to make them accessible to people with disabilities, and has made a 10-year commitment as a member of the ERC's Multifamily Housing Resource Program (MHRP).

The MHRP, a fair housing program of the ERC, was created in 2008 as a collaboration between the ERC and national apartment developer Trammell Crow Residential. The MHRP provides a vehicle for developers and disability advocates to address housing accessibility issues in a proactive way by providing expert advice and "best practices" guidance, employee training, compliance testing, and accessibility resources.

In addition to its 10-year commitment to the MHRP, Kettler will also include accessibility related advertising in its marketing materials and will be an active participant in the web-based National Accessible Apartment Clearinghouse — a national database of accessible apartments. Finally, as part of the agreement Kettler will make payments to the ERC totaling \$525,000.

"The Equal Rights Center is not only pleased to have Kettler as a new member of the MHRP, but this agreement demonstrates how proactive housing developers can work cooperatively with fair housing advocates to benefit the disability community," said Don Kahl, Executive Director of the Equal Rights Center.

In 2007, the ERC discovered accessibility concerns at 16 of Kettler's properties. A federal lawsuit was filed in September 2007, alleging violations of the federal Fair Housing Act (FHA) and American with Disabilities Act (ADA) in the design and construction of Kettler's properties.

"When Kettler was notified of accessibility issues, it immediately began to work with the ERC to

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address them,” said Kahl. “We are extremely grateful to Kettler for their dedication to finding a positive resolution to these issues.”

“Kettler has always been in the forefront of providing accessible and affordable housing for the disabled community,” said Kettler Chairman Robert C. Kettler. “Kettler is pleased to continue to be part of the solution with the ERC and the MHRP by helping to clarify standards that make all apartments more usable and livable to those with disabilities. We look forward to an ongoing partnership with the ERC that will guarantee accessible housing for all in Kettler communities.”

The ERC is a national, civil rights membership organization headquartered in Washington, D.C., with more than 25 years of experience in advancing civil rights. The ERC was represented in negotiating its agreement with Kettler by the Washington Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs and the Washington, D.C. law firm of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP.

Founded in 1977, Kettler is ranked among the top multifamily housing developers in the country and is the largest land developer in metropolitan Washington, D.C. Kettler has developed more than five million square feet of commercial space and more than 50,000 housing units.

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