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NAIOP-MD Forms Sustainability Committee

NAIOP-MD has created a new Sustainability Committee. **Peter Garver**, founder of **Sustainable Development Partnerships** and **David Pratt**, founder of **Lorax Partnerships**, each recognized for their expertise in the area of sustainable commercial real estate development practices, have been named co-chairmen.

The primary objectives of the new group are to foster increased education and awareness concerning the importance of sustainable - or "green" - development practices in the commercial real estate sector, as well as to offer legislative advocacy efforts aimed at achieving positive outcomes in Maryland. In the near future, the two chairmen intend to organize regular informational seminars and conferences that help define and explain sustainable development activities, as well as highlighting the economic and environment benefits by adhering to these policies.

"The sustainable building movement is rapidly spreading around the country. This trend has quickly gained momentum and support from national commercial real estate organizations and government at the local, state and federal levels," explained Peter Garver. "Many NAIOP-MD members have played leadership roles both locally and nationally to devise green building standards and promote the importance of this building method. The intent of this committee is to better focus our state and regional efforts in - what we believe to be is - the future of commercial real estate."

NAIOP-MD consists of more than 330 active members throughout the state, and the national organization includes over 16,000 commercial real estate professionals.

"Our organization reaches out to and influences not only owners and builders of commercial real estate, but also to affiliate vendors and partners such as the real estate brokerage community, architects, engineers and legal professionals," **Cole Schnorf**, President of NAIOP-MD said. "It is vital to engage all of these associated groups and educate them about the importance of sustainable development."