

January 9, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and Minority Leader Pelosi:

Our organizations represent fiscal conservatives, architects, engineers, insurance businesses, public works professionals, and non-profit organizations. As Congress considers additional supplemental appropriations for the 2017 hurricane season, we are writing to express our support for stronger flood-ready requirements for all federally-funded projects. The devastation caused by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria underscore that, now more than ever, the country needs a pragmatic and prudent disaster risk management strategy to safeguard the nation's infrastructure and structures, protect businesses, communities and homes, and conserve taxpayer resources to ensure we don't pay to rebuild something twice. While our organizations represent diverse views on a number of issues, we are of one mind in that we need flood-ready infrastructure measures for federally-funded building and rebuilding to ensure our communities and infrastructure are tougher and stronger.

The pressing need for an updated approach to assessing and managing flood risk is borne out by an increasingly costly cycle of flooding and rebuilding that can and should be broken. Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria are the latest glaring examples of how vulnerable our country's infrastructure is to flood risk, and their damages will only add to the already more than \$500 billion in losses caused by flood-related disasters since 2000.

Without comprehensive federal action to reduce flood risk, disaster relief and recovery policies will allow for, and even encourage, unprepared communities to build unwisely and subsequently rely upon federal help when flood disasters hit. We simply cannot afford to allow this pattern to continue. When federal taxpayer funds are used for development and rebuilding in flood-prone areas, it should be common sense to consider and mitigate those risks upfront in order to ensure the investment will be long-lasting. Further, recent polling found that 82 percent of registered voters (Democrats: 92%, Independents: 78% Republicans: 74%) support a requirement that all federally funded infrastructure in flood-prone areas be constructed to better withstand the impacts of flooding.

A flood-ready approach for federally funded building and rebuilding of structures and infrastructure will help protect people and property, reduce federal costs associated with rebuilding after tremendous flood losses, and make communities stronger. We ask that you lead the nation in rebuilding efforts following this years' unprecedented hurricane season by ensuring our communities and infrastructure are strong enough to withstand the next big flood.

Thank you,

William B. (BO) Mills, Jr., PWLF, President
American Public Works Association

Thomas Santos, Vice President, Federal Affairs
American Insurance Association

Sarah Dodge, Senior VP, Advocacy & Relationships
American Institute of Architects

Tom Smith, Executive Director
American Society of Civil Engineers

Roxanne Blackwell, Director of Federal Government Affairs
American Society of Landscape Architects

Chad Berginnis, Executive Director
Association of State Floodplain Managers

Jonathan Bydlak, President
Coalition to Reduce Spending

Rob Sisson, President
ConservAmerica

Ken A. Crerar, President and CEO
Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers

Marion Mollegan McFadden, Vice President, Policy
Enterprise Community Partners

Leslie Chapman-Henderson, President and CEO
Federal Alliance for Safe Homes – FLASH, Inc.

Jason Pye, Vice President, Legislative Affairs
FreedomWorks

Nick Crossley, President
International Association of Emergency Managers - USA

Sara C. Yerkes, Senior Vice President, Government Relations
International Code Council

Julie Rochman, President and CEO
Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety

Jimi Grande, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs
National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies

Robert Garbini, P.E., President and CEO
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association

Henry L. Green, Hon. AIA, President
National Institute of Building Sciences

Pete Sepp, President
National Taxpayers Union

Eli Lehrer, President
R Street Institute

Franklin W. Nutter, President
Reinsurance Association of America

Julie Shiyou-Woodard, President and CEO
Smart Home America

Ryan Alexander, President
Taxpayers for Common Sense

David Williams, President
Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Maj. General Warren C. Edwards, USA (Ret.), Board Chairman
The Alliance for National & Community Resilience

Lynn Scarlett, Co-Chief External Affairs Officer
The Nature Conservancy

Laura Lightbody, Director
The Pew Charitable Trusts

Ralph F. Boyd, Chief Executive Officer, ULI Americas
The Urban Land Institute

Evan Reis, Executive Director and Co-Founder
U.S. Resiliency Council

cc: Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Thad Cochran; Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Patrick J. Leahy; House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen; House Appropriations Ranking Member Nita M. Lowey