

Chairman Hensarling
House Financial Services Committee
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Crapo
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Waters
House Financial Services Committee
4340 Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal
Office Building
Washington, DC 20024

Ranking Member Brown
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

April 16, 2018

Dear Members of Congress,

The undersigned organizations write in strong support of a long-term reauthorization for the National Flood Insurance Program.

The NFIP is often the first line of defense for homeowners – ensuring the availability of flood insurance in flood-prone areas as well as working to mitigate future flood damage. The program enjoys strong support throughout the consumer, insurance, lender, real estate and construction industries. Congress recently provided the NFIP with a short-term extension through July 31st of this year. We remain concerned over the potential of continuing to reauthorize the program through a series of short-term extensions that only provide temporary certainty.

We saw the necessity of the program on full display in 2017 as several catastrophic storms wreaked havoc on the United States, resulting in the loss of life, hundreds of billions of dollars in losses and damages that we are still rebuilding from. While the program can certainly be improved, its existence prevented those losses from being significantly worse. As we approach the 2018 hurricane season, we believe it is important for Congress to ensure that the program be reauthorized on a multi-year effort as quickly as possible.

We appreciate the efforts of Congress to ensure that flood insurance remain accessible and affordable, while trying to restrain the expansion of exposure for U.S. taxpayers. Several reform proposals have been introduced to try and strike this balance and build on reforms from prior reauthorizations. Among those reforms is the inclusion of language clarifying Congress's previous effort to enable private flood insurance to satisfy the mandatory purchase requirement. Enacting this reform would provide consumers with greater choices while reducing the program's exposure.

We greatly appreciate the work that each of your Committees has conducted to work toward a long-term reauthorization of the NFIP that also puts the program on sound financial footing. We understand and support those goals. As we head toward the start of the next hurricane season, we encourage leaders on both sides of the aisle to come together on a long-term solution.

We stand ready to work with you to enact a long-term reauthorization of the NFIP prior to its expiration on July 31st.

Sincerely,

American Bankers Association
Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers
Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America
National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors
National Association of Professional Insurance Agents
Wholesale & Specialty Insurance Association