

September 25, 2017

Mr. Gary D. Cohn
National Economic Council

Mr. Mick Mulvaney
Office of Management and Budget

Mr. Thomas Bossert
Executive Office of the President

Dear Mr. Cohn, Mr. Mulvaney and Mr. Bossert:

Our organizations represent fiscal conservatives, architects, engineers, insurance businesses, and non-profit organizations. We are writing to express our support for stronger flood-ready standards for federally funded building and rebuilding projects. The recent 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, 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 standards 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 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 federal flood-ready standard for federally funded building and rebuilding projects will help protect people and property, reduce federal costs associated with rebuilding after tremendous flood losses, and make communities stronger. We ask the administration to lead the nation in rebuilding after Harvey and Irma by ensuring our communities and infrastructure are strong enough to withstand the next big flood, and would welcome the opportunity to work with the administration on such a standard.

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

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

Jason Pye, Vice President, Legislative Affairs
FreedomWorks

Lanita Lloyd, 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

Wendy Smith-Reeve, President
National Emergency Management Association

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
Taxpayer Protection Alliance

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

Lynn Scarlett, Managing Director of Public Policy
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