



Independent Insurance Agents  
& Brokers of America, Inc.



March 15, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization**

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

The undersigned trade associations represent agents, insurers, and reinsurers that help protect Americans by administering and providing risk transfer to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP must periodically be reauthorized and our organizations have been working with Congress to enact a long-term reauthorization of the program while also supporting reforms to modernize the NFIP and make the program more efficient and easier for consumers to navigate. While we appreciate and thank you for efforts to avoid expiration of the NFIP by including short-term extension measures in government funding legislation, we also request that Congress reauthorize the NFIP on a long-term basis, and at a minimum, through the end of the fiscal year. Consumers deserve certainty and stability in the marketplace.

To date, the House of Representatives has passed H.R. 2874, the "21<sup>st</sup> Century Flood Reform Act," which would make multiple reforms to the NFIP and reauthorize the program for five years. However, the Senate has yet to formally consider a NFIP reauthorization proposal as the upper chamber debates how best to address needed program reforms. This has caused the NFIP and its policyholders to be strung along on a series of five stop-gap extensions in just over the past five months, resulting in two lapses of the program already this year. Further, the last time the NFIP was left out of the larger budget agreement was in 2010, when the program shut down for two months, resulting in severe market disruption, and saw nearly a dozen short-term extensions between 2010 and 2012, when the previous 5-year reauthorization and reform bill was signed into law.

The NFIP, which will lapse again on March 23 absent congressional action, needs long-term stability, especially in the wake of devastating flooding that has impacted millions of Americans in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Puerto Rico and the Northeast. More than 5 million property owners depend on the NFIP across the United States to insure their property against flooding, the most common and costly natural disaster in the United States.

On behalf of the consumers we serve, we ask the House and Senate to act on a long-term reauthorization measure, while also realizing that more time is needed for the Senate to contemplate needed program reforms. As such, we urge Congress to reauthorize the NFIP in conjunction with the government funding bill to be debated shortly at least through the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2018.

American Insurance Association

The Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers

Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, Inc.

National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies

Property Casualty Insurers Association of America

Reinsurance Association of America

cc: The Honorable Jeb Hensarling

The Honorable Mike Crapo

The Honorable Maxine Waters

The Honorable Sherrod Brown