NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE FLOOD RESILIENCY AND TAXPAYER SAVINGS ACT

Our organizations represent fiscal conservatives, flood risk managers, insurance businesses, architects, engineers, design professionals, public works professionals, and non-profit organizations. We are writing to support legislation, **the Flood Resiliency and Taxpayer Savings Act of 2020**, that calls for a pragmatic approach to enhance the safety of federal investments and communities when building and rebuilding in flood-prone areas.

Flooding is the most common and expensive natural disaster in the United States, costing the nation more than $845 billion in estimated losses from flood- and hurricane-related disasters since 2000, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This growing disaster toll has strained the capacity of federal, state, and local governments to respond and recover. The federal government – using taxpayer dollars -- often pays a significant portion of these repair and recovery costs, sometimes paying to rebuild the same school, fire station, road, or other structure multiple times.

This increasingly costly cycle of flood damage and repair is driven in part by the outdated approach of federal agencies focusing on historical data that fails to account for today's weather patterns and future risk.

The legislation addresses this problem by directing federal agencies to plan for future risk as they evaluate spending taxpayer dollars in flood-prone areas. To accomplish this the bill calls on agencies to use the best available data, including FEMA maps, state and local assessments, hydrologic and hydraulic studies, and other relevant information. In cases where insufficient data exists, it provides agencies with the flexibility to assume higher flood levels throughout the intended life of projects. When shielding federal investments from future damages a range of potential safeguards can be utilized—such as nature-based systems, structural elevation, hardening, or other resilience strategies.

Forward-looking, pragmatic approaches like this are not only critically needed but well-supported across the political spectrum. Recent polling by The Pew Charitable Trusts found that [85 percent](#) of Americans (80 percent of Republicans, 91 percent of Democrats, and 87 percent of Independents) support a requirement that all federally funded projects in flood-prone areas be constructed to better withstand future flooding.

Increasing the resiliency of federal investments through better planning for future flood risk and by leveraging natural systems and other mitigation strategies will reduce damages, protect people and property, and accelerate post-disaster recovery – all while saving taxpayer dollars.

We strongly support this important legislation and urge Congress to quickly support and pass it.

Thank you,

American Institute of Architects	**American Society of Landscape Architects**
American Planning Association	**Association of State Floodplain Managers**
American Property Casualty Insurance Association	**Center for American Progress**
American Public Works Association	**ConservAmerica**
American Society of Civil Engineers	**Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers**

Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.

Environment and Energy Study Institute

FreedomWorks

Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety

National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies

National Institute of Building Sciences

National Low Income Housing Coalition

National Taxpayers Union

National Wildlife Federation

Natural Resources Defense Council

R Street Institute

Reinsurance Association of America

Rise to Resilience

Smart Home America

Taxpayers for Common Sense

Taxpayer Protection Alliance

The Alliance for National and Community Resilience

The Nature Conservancy

The Pew Charitable Trusts

U.S. Resiliency Council

Union of Concerned Scientists

Waterfront Alliance