SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE STRATEGY ACT

THE PROBLEM

There is an urgent need for action at all levels of government to improve our nation’s resilience to the growing frequency, intensity, and cost of flooding and other extreme weather events. The magnitude of the problem is underscored by disaster costs increasing by an average of more than $225 billion each decade since 1980. The impacts are felt by every state and territory, destroying lives and livelihoods in urban and rural areas along the coast and inland. While no community is immune, marginalized and less-resourced populations bear the brunt of these impacts and are least able to prepare and recover.

Following last year’s historic investments in resilience planning and projects with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, it is critical that we break down the federal government’s siloed approaches to disaster preparedness that often create inefficiencies and challenges for state and local partners. A collaborative national resilience strategy between federal, state, and local governments is needed to better steward taxpayer dollars and better protect communities from the dangers of flooding and other disasters.

THE SOLUTION:

Bipartisan legislation introduced in Congress, the National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act (S.3531 / H.R.6461) can help fill the nation’s resilience gaps by:

1. Creating a Chief Resilience Officer within the White House to improve the coordination of federal resilience initiatives.
2. Developing a national resilience strategy that better streamlines federal support, leads with science, puts nature to work, and addresses historical inequities.
3. Taking stock of federal barriers to enhancing climate resilience and identifying solutions to address them.
4. Equipping local leaders with the resources, data, and tools necessary to successfully plan for future risk to flooding and other disasters.

The bill creates a first-ever Chief Resilience Officer position within the White House. Just as the growing number of states that have appointed Chief Resilience Officers, establishing dedicated federal leadership will ensure that resilience efforts are integrated and fiscally aligned across all agencies and departments.

The bill will produce a national resilience strategy that unifies federal efforts across agencies. The strategy will develop long-term plans that factor in climate threats; and create federal working groups to identify agency inefficiencies and coordinate resilience goals. The strategy will include financial incentives to promote local and state adaptation efforts, improve infrastructure resilience, and prioritize the use of nature-based solutions.

The bill promotes equity and efficiency. The Chief Resilience Officer will lead efforts to regularly track and report out on federal resilience efforts, available resources for local partners, and opportunities to effectively and equitably distribute funding.

The bill gives a diverse set of stakeholders a seat at the table in developing the national resilience strategy. This bill will create a Partners Council on Climate Adaptation and Resilience to account for the values and needs of state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, NGOs, as well as the private sector. The Partners Council will identify federal actions that address inequities, streamline support for communities and states, enhance technical assistance, increase local capacity, and better support the on-the-ground needs of those most under-resourced and at-risk.
STATE AND LOCAL SUPPORT FOR
THE NATIONAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE STRATEGY ACT

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A Red Circle (MO)
Adams Economic Alliance (PA)
Adaptation International (TX)
Advocacy For Principled Action in Government (TX)
Alegro Private Tours (CA)
Alianza Center (FL)
All Aboard Wisconsin (WI)
Allegheny Land Trust (PA)
The American Institute of Architects, Minnesota Chapter (MN)
American Planning Association, Michigan Chapter (MI)
American Planning Association, Wisconsin Chapter (WI)
Anaheim Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Anaheim Transportation Network (CA)
Anza-Borrego Foundation (CA)
Ben Archer, State Farm Insurance (TX)
Artist Boat (TX)
Association of Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions (WI)
Audubon South Carolina (SC)
Office of the Chief Resilience Officer (City of Austin, TX)
Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation (CA)
Bayfield Chamber & Visitor Bureau (WI)
Bayou City Waterkeeper (TX)
Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Birch Run/Bridgeport Area Chamber of Commerce (MI)
Black Millennials for Flint (MI)
Bolingbrook Area Chamber of Commerce (IL)
Office of the Mayor (City of Bolivar, TN)
Brandywine Red Clay Alliance (PA)
Bridging the Gap (MO)
Bronco Power Boost (TN)
Bronx Chamber of Commerce (NY)
Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce (NY)
Bucks County Association of Township Officials (PA)
C.C. We Adapt (WI)
Caldwell Land Solutions (CA)
Cambria Regional Chamber (PA)
Carbondale Chamber of Commerce (IL)
Central Coast Climate Collaborative (CA)
Chester County Association of Township Officials (PA)
Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce (IL)
Chippewa Valley Transit Alliance (WI)
Circular Indiana (IN)
Citizens' Climate Lobby Connecticut Chapter (CT)
Citizens' Climate Lobby Kansas Chapter (KS)
Citizens' Climate Lobby Louisiana Chapter (LA)
Citizens' Climate Lobby Middle Tennessee Chapter (TN)
Citizens' Climate Lobby Missouri Chapter (MO)
Citizens' Climate Lobby Northeast Tennessee Chapter (TN)
Citizens' Climate Lobby South Dakota Chapter (SD)
Clean Water Expected in East Tennessee (TN)
The CLEO Institute (FL)
Port of Cleveland (OH)
Climate Adaptation Planning and Analytics, LLC (OR)
Climate Advocate (MS)
Climate Council of Greater Kansas City (MO)
Climate Reality Project (TX)
Climate Resilience Consulting (IL)
Climate Resolve (CA)
Coastal Prairie Conservancy (TX)
Columbus Chamber of Commerce (OH)
Office of Mayor John Cooper (City of Nashville, TN)
Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce (IA)
Dakota Resources Council (ND)
Darby Creek Valley Association (PA)
Defend H2O (NY)
Delaware County Chamber of Commerce (PA)
Delaware Highlands Conservancy (PA)
Delta Institute (IL)
Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce (MI)
Discovery Green (TX)
Duluth Chamber of Commerce (MN)
Office of the Mayor (City of Dunlap, TN)
East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (FL)
Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce (WI)
Eco-Claire (WI)
Energy Care (MO)
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership (PA)
Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (VA)
Fat Peach Farm (NH)
Florida Floodplain Managers Association (FL)
Florida For Good (FL)
Florida League of Cities (FL)
Florida Rural Water Association (FL)
Florida TaxWatch (FL)
Florida Wildlife Federation (FL)
Foundation for Florida Environmental Protection (FL)
Partnership for Southern Equity (GA)
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce and Civic Association (CA)
PennFuture (PA)
Pennsylvania Association of State Floodplain Managers (PA)
Pennsylvania Council of Churches (PA)
Pennsylvania Municipal League (PA)
Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society (PA)
Pennsylvania Solar Center (PA)
Pier 6 Seafood and Oyster House (TX)
Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce (PA)
Placework Architecture (NH)
Prestige Oyster (TX)
Protect Our Aquifer (TN)
Queens Chamber of Commerce (NY)
The ReFill Station (NH)
Regional Plan Association (NY)
Renew Missouri (MO)
Residents Working Against Huron River Flooding (MI)
Resilient Cities Catalyst (NY)
Resource Environmental Solutions (SC)
River Alliance of Wisconsin (WI)
Riverfront North Partnership (PA)
Robinwood Center (NH)
Rural Housing Coalition of New York (NY)
Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce (MI)
Saltonstall Farm (NH)
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History & Sea Center (CA)
Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Schuylkill Headwaters Association (PA)
SEEDS Ecology & Education Centers (MI)
Sequoia Riverlands Trust (CA)
Shadybrook Village Condominiums (FL)
City of Shoreline (WA)
SiteWorks, LLC (CO)
Skokie Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IL)
Solar United Neighbors of Florida (FL)
South Carolina Coastal Conservation League (SC)
South Carolina Insurance News Service (SC)
South Carolina Wildlife Federation (SC)
Southeastern Climbers Coalition (TN)
Southern California Water Coalition (CA)
Star Island Corporation (NH)
Strawberry Banke Museum (NH)
Office of the Mayor (City of Sunbright, TN)
Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota (MN)
Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TN)
Tennessee Conservation Voters (TN)
Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council (TN)
Terra Firma Landscape Architects (NH)
Texas Brewshed Alliance (TX)
Texas House Caucus on Climate, Environment, & The Energy Industry (TX)
The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia (PA)
The Reno/Sparks Chamber of Commerce (NV)
The San Diego River Park Foundation (CA)
Three Rivers Development Corporation (NY)
Turtle Island Restoration Network (TX)
Tygart Valley United Way (WV)
United Way of Humphreys County (TN)
Upstream Pittsburgh (PA)
Valley Industry and Commerce Association (CA)
Vermont Conservation Voters (VT)
Vermont Natural Resources Council (VT)
Virginia Conservation Network (VA)
Washington County Chamber of Commerce (PA)
Waterkeepers Chesapeake (PA)
Watershed Committee of the Ozarks (MO)
Wausau Community and Economic Development (WI)
WeConservePA (PA)
West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum (MI)
West Shore Chamber of Commerce (PA)
West Virginia Conservation Agency (WV)
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy (WV)
West Virginia Rivers Coalition (WV)
Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce (IL)
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (PA)
Westmoreland County Economic Growth Connection (PA)
Westside Housing (MO)
Wetlands Watch (VA)
Whitewater Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Council (WI)
Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce (PA)
Willistown Conservation Trust (PA)
Winnetka Northfield Glencoe Chamber of Commerce (IL)
Wisconsin Conservation Voters (WI)
Wisconsin Transit Riders Alliance (WI)
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Joshua Miller, Councilmember (City of Eau Claire, WI)
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Tami Schrafnagel, Supervisor (Eau Claire County, WI)
Dr. Vivek Shandas, Adaptation Professional, Portland State University (OR)
Steven Shea, Supervisor (Milwaukee County, WI)
A.R. Siders, JD, PhD, Adaptation Professional, American Society of Adaptation Professionals (DE)
Bob Siegfried, Senior Project Manager, Resource Environmental Solutions (VA)
Mayor Jeff Silvestrini (City of Millcreek, UT)
Emily Skeehan, Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island Creation Care Committee (RI)
Courtney Soler, City Administrator, City of Hanahan (SC)
Alan Stuart, Board Member, South Carolina Wildlife Federation (SC)
Stephen Tanner, Stormwater Program Manager, Berkeley County (SC)
Florida State Representative Allison Tant, District 9 (FL)
Mike Thompson, Commissioner (Abington Township, PA)
Mayor Sylvester Turner (City of Houston, TX)
Annie Vest, Mitigation and Disaster Planning Lead, Freese and Nichols, Inc. (OK)
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Shannon Wages, Adaptation Professional, Environmental Science Associates (OR)
Holly Walsh, Village Trustee (Village of Osceola, WI)
Texas State Senator John Whitmire, District 15 (TX)
Chani Wiggins, Founder & President, Winn Strategies, LLC (Washington, DC)
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