

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**