



September 30, 2013

Chairman Jeb Hensarling
House Financial Services Committee
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Maxine Waters
House Financial Services Committee
B301C Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Randy Neugebauer
Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance
House Financial Services Committee
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Hensarling, Chairman Neugebauer, and Ranking Member Waters:

The undersigned organizations write to you to express concerns over drastic increases in flood insurance premiums as a result of recent changes to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Provisions included in the Biggert-Waters Act of 2012 will make flood insurance unaffordable for citizens who built to code and followed the law every step of the way. We urge you to consider amending the law to balance fiscal responsibility with premium affordability.

As you are aware, the Biggert-Waters Act phases out grandfathering. This means that properties that were built in accordance with all FEMA required elevations and applicable codes at that time may now be considered out of compliance, through no fault of their own, due to new flood mapping. In some instances, homeowners that have never flooded and built to code are facing 2000-3000% increases in annual premiums. This drastic increase in premiums will cause property values and assessments to drop to zero, bank mortgages to go into default, local tax bases to erode, and economies to be eviscerated. And ironically, while the intended effect of the removal of grandfathering was to make the NFIP solvent, it will have the opposite effect because homeowners and business owners will be forced to drop out of the program completely.

An amendment passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Committee delaying certain premium increases for one year is a step in the right direction, as it is abundantly clear that more time and additional actions are needed to ensure continued affordability.

The undersigned organizations support a fully authorized, sustainable, fiscally responsible National Flood Insurance Program. However, fiscal sustainability must be balanced with protecting the businesses and homeowners who built according to code and have followed all applicable laws.

Changes made to the National Flood Insurance Program in the Biggert-Waters Act of 2012 threaten to harm the very citizens the program was designed to protect.

Sincerely,

Alabama Gulf Coast Chamber
of Commerce
Gulf Shores, AL

Algiers Economic
Development Foundation
New Orleans, LA

American Shrimp Processors
Association
Biloxi, MS

Apartment Association of
Greater New Orleans &
Louisiana
Metairie, LA

Baldwin County Board of
Realtors
Robertsdale, AL

Baldwin County Economic
Development Alliance
Robertsdale, AL

Baton Rouge Area Chamber
Baton Rouge, LA

Bay Area Houston Economic
Partnership
Houston, TX`

Bayou Industrial Group
Thibodaux, LA

Broad Channel Civic
Association
Queens, NY

The Chamber Southwest
Louisiana
Lake Charles, LA

Coastal Alabama Partnership
Mobile, AL

Eastern Shore Chamber of
Commerce
Daphne, AL

East St. Tammany Chamber
of Commerce
Slidell, Louisiana

Eden Isles Homeowners
Association
Eden Isles, LA

Florida Bankers Association
Tallahassee, FL

Florida Realtors
Orlando, FL

Greater Baton Rouge
Association of REALTORS
Baton Rouge, LA

Greater New Orleans
Foundation
New Orleans, LA

Greater New Orleans
Housing Alliance
New Orleans, LA

Greater New Orleans, Inc.
New Orleans, LA

Greater Tampa Chamber of
Commerce
Tampa, FL

Gulf Coast Bank & Trust
Company
New Orleans, LA

Gulf Shores - Orange Beach
Tourism
Gulf Shores, AL

Gulf United Metro Business
Organization
Baldwin County, AL

Hammond Area Economic &
Industrial Development
District
Hammond, LA

Hammond Chamber of
Commerce
Hammond, LA

Harvey Canal Industrial
Association
Harvey, LA

Historic Charleston
Foundation
Charleston, SC

Home Builders Association of
Greater New Orleans
Metairie, Louisiana

Home Builders Association of Mississippi
Jackson, MS

Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Cape Cod
Hyannis, MA

Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Massachusetts
Springfield, MA

Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce
Houma, LA

Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of Louisiana
Baton Rouge, LA

Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
Avondale, Louisiana

Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
Metairie, LA

Lafourche Chamber of Commerce
Larose, LA

Long Island Association, Inc.
Melville, NY

Louisiana Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives
Baton Rouge, LA

Louisiana Association of Home Builders
Baton Rouge, LA

Louisiana Bankers Association
Baton Rouge, LA

Louisiana Floodplain Management Association
Baton Rouge, LA

Louisiana REALTORS
Baton Rouge, LA

Marshfield Citizens Coastal Coalition
Marshfield, MA

Mississippi Association of REALTORS®
Jackson, MS

Mississippi Bankers Association
Jackson, MS

Mississippi Gulf Coast Business Council
Gulfport, MS

Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
Mobile, AL

National Levee Issues Alliance
Plano, TX

National Waterways Conference
Arlington, VA

New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce
Trenton, NJ

New Orleans Business Alliance
New Orleans, LA

New Orleans Center for Creative Arts
New Orleans, LA

New Orleans Metropolitan Association of REALTORS
New Orleans, LA

NMD, Inc.
Slidell, LA

Northshore Business Council
Mandeville, LA

Parish Government Risk Management Agency (PGRMA)

Plaquemines Association of Business & Industry
Belle Chase, LA

Port of South Louisiana
LaPlace, LA

Red Hook Civic Association
Brooklyn, NY

Restore or Retreat
Thibodaux, LA

Reve Inc
LaPlace, LA

River Region Chamber of Commerce
Laplace, LA

Save Our Brick Communities
Brick, NJ

Scituate Coastal Coalition
Scituate, MA

South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce
Foley, AL

South Central Industrial Association
Houma, LA

South Louisiana Economic
Council
Thibodaux, LA

South Shore Chamber of
Commerce
Rockland, MA

St. Bernard Chamber of
Commerce
Chalmette, LA

St. Bernard Economic
Development Foundation
Chalmette, Louisiana

St. Charles Parish Economic
Development Council
Hahnville, LA

Stop FEMA now
Brick, NJ

St. Petersburg Area Chamber
of Commerce
St. Petersburg FL

St. Tammany Economic
Development Foundation
Mandeville, LA

St. Tammany West Chamber
of Commerce
Covington, LA

Thibodaux Chamber of
Commerce
Thibodaux, LA

World Trade Center of New
Orleans
New Orleans, LA