



March 3, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Cc:

The Honorable Dina Titus
Subcommittee Chair
House T&I Committee
2464 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Daniel Webster
Subcommittee Ranking Member
House T&I Committee
2184 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

The BuildStrong Coalition writes to express our strong support for H.R. 5689, the Resilient Assistance for Mitigation for Environmentally Resilient Infrastructure and Construction by Americans (AMERICA) Act, which was passed out of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on October 27, 2021, with almost unanimous backing. The undersigned organizations, as part of the BuildStrong Coalition, urge you to schedule consideration of the bipartisan legislation on the House floor as soon as possible.

This legislation builds on the resilience initiatives contained in the bipartisan infrastructure package and provides additional tools for families, businesses, and communities to reduce climate risks ahead of the next crisis. As our nation's disaster profile becomes increasingly volatile and the instances of severe climate events grow, it is critical that Congress act on this issue.

Important mitigation measures like those included in the Resilient AMERICA Act save lives, property, and taxpayer money, and are crucial for reducing environmental disaster impacts. Multiple studies have demonstrated that for every \$1 spent on preventative pre-disaster mitigation and resilient construction, there is a return of as much as \$11 in savings.¹ Such policies are good for the environment and the economy.

This comprehensive bill contains a host of provisions designed to create a significant number of new resources for communities to better protect themselves ahead of natural catastrophes. This includes policies that would increase funding for the National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster Mitigation fund (commonly known as Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, or BRIC, Program) created by the Disaster Recovery Reform Act to provide grants to local governments for risk-reducing mitigation projects that make homes and infrastructure more resilient in advance of severe climate events, as well as those that would harden communities by creating new resources and incentives for states and localities to adopt and enforce modern constructions standards and building codes. Importantly, the bill will also establish a new pilot program under the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide resources to communities and homeowners for the purpose of retrofitting existing homes and buildings.

The BuildStrong Coalition, formed in 2011 to respond to an increasing number of severe disasters, is made up of a diverse group of members representing firefighters, emergency responders, emergency

¹ Based on the research and findings of the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS).

managers, insurers, engineers, architects, contractors, and manufacturers, as well as consumer organizations, code specialists, and many others committed to building a more disaster resilient nation. The BuildStrong Coalition has been a partner to Congress's work to investigate causes of, and devise the solutions to, the rising costs and impacts of disasters in the United States.

Our organization represents the broad, bipartisan, public-private, and nonprofit stakeholder support for H.R. 5689. Therefore, the BuildStrong Coalition and its allied partners again ask that it be brought to House floor for consideration in an expeditious manner. We look forward to working with you and are prepared to offer our institutional expertise throughout the process.

Sincerely,

Natalie F. Enclade, Ph.D.
Executive Director
BuildStrong Coalition

Cc: The American Institute of Architects
American Property Casualty Insurance Association
American Society of Civil Engineers
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute
Congressional Fire Services Institute
Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers
Ductile Iron Pipe Research Association
Federal Alliance for Safe Homes
Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America
Insurance Information Institute
The Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety
International Association of Fire Chiefs
International Code Council
Liberty Mutual Insurance
McWane, Inc.
National Association of State Fire Marshals
National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies
National CERT Association
National Concrete Masonry Association
National Council of Structural Engineers Association
National Fire Protection Association
National Institute of Building Sciences
National League of Cities
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
National Recreation and Park Association
Natural Hazard Mitigation Association
Portland Cement Association
Reinsurance Association of America
State Farm Insurance Companies
Travelers