

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Carter
Chairman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
2006 Rayburn House office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Carter, and Ranking Member Roybal-Allard:

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is the primary provider of flood insurance in this country, covering over 5 million households and businesses across the country. Although the NFIP was created to make flood insurance affordable and available, rising premiums, fees, and surcharges are leaving many policyholders struggling to afford the cost. As a result, the NFIP is losing participation and homeowners continue to suffer. Congress is actively exploring ways to enhance affordability under the NFIP but President Trump seems to have other plans.

The leaked details of the President's budget request for FY 2018, which were reported by the Washington Post on March 7, 2017, revealed that the Administration is considering increasing fees on NFIP policyholders in order to pay for the construction of a wall between the U.S.-Mexico borders. *We strongly urge you to categorically reject this harmful proposal.*

It would be patently unfair and wholly inappropriate to increase flood insurance premiums for millions of households and businesses in order to pay for what amounts to a political stunt. President Trump has repeatedly lied about the true cost of this border wall to U.S. taxpayers by continuously claiming that Mexico will pay for it. This budget proposal reveals the truth – hardworking American families and businesses, many of whom are already struggling to make ends meet, are the ones who will be forced to foot the bill. It is outrageous to consider an arbitrary fee hike on flood insurance policyholders to pay for a wall that is entirely unrelated to the risk of flooding.

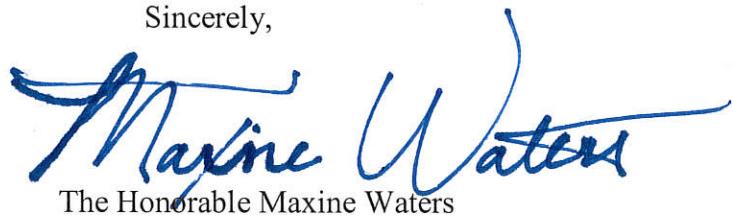
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As you consider their FY 2018 priorities, we urge you to include the following report language:

"No portion of flood insurance premiums, including any and all fees, shall be used to pay for the construction or any related expenses for the border wall between the U.S. and Mexico."

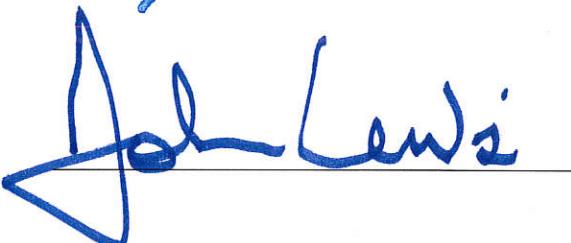
Thank you for your consideration of this important request. Please contact Lisa Peto or Esther Kahng with Ranking Member Waters' staff at (202) 225-4247 with any questions about this letter.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Maxine Waters


C. A. Rvel
Frank Pallotta, Jr.
V.O. M.


Jim Vargas

John Lewis

Mark DeSai

Jan Polk

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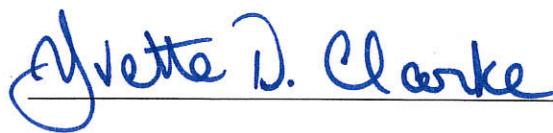
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