

United States House of Representatives
Committee on Financial Services
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 17, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leaders McConnell, Pelosi, and Schumer:

Following a historic 2017 hurricane season, which for the first time on record resulted in three Category 4 hurricanes making landfall in the United States, and facing the beginning of the 2018 hurricane season, which is expected to cause similarly catastrophic losses, Congress has yet to provide American families with certainty that the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) will be available to them when the inevitable floods arrive. More than 5 million families rely on the NFIP for affordable flood insurance coverage. However, since its multi-year authorization expired on September 30, 2017, Congress has passed six short-term extensions and even allowed the program to briefly lapse twice during government shutdowns. The NFIP is set to expire, yet again, on July 31, 2018 and we write to you today to demand that the NFIP's doors remain open.

The NFIP is crucial in providing certainty and stability to the housing market. The NFIP is also necessary to provide flood mapping and incentives for communities to engage in floodplain management and mitigation. Mapping and mitigation are a critical part of the NFIP's role in creating more resilient communities and yet we now know that 2017 was the costliest year on record for weather and climate disasters in the United States that by all accounts will only get worse.

Congress must also address the affordability of flood insurance. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the agency that administers the NFIP, recently released its statutorily required affordability framework, which found that low-income homeowners are disproportionately more likely to live in flood-prone areas. Premiums are already unaffordable for many and yet flood insurance is only expected to become more expensive as the frequency

The Honorable Paul Ryan
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
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Page 2 of 6

and severity of natural disasters continues to increase. The misconception that the NFIP provides subsidies to wealthy beachfront homeowners was finally to put to rest by FEMA's own data. With this important information, it would be a dereliction of duty for Congress to continue to leave affordability challenges unaddressed.

Homeowners, businesses, and renters must be able to protect their property in the face of flooding and a lapse in NFIP authority will leave them unable to do so. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Ami Bera
Member of Congress



Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress



Anthony Brown
Member of Congress



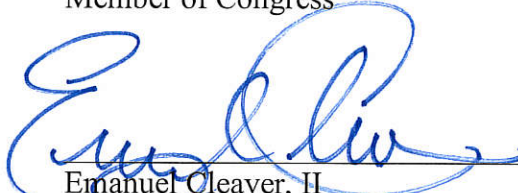
Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress




Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress




Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



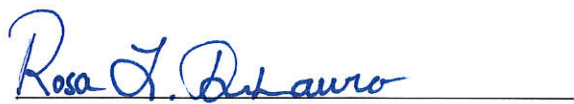
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist
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Danny K. Davis
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Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Lois J. Frankel
Member of Congress



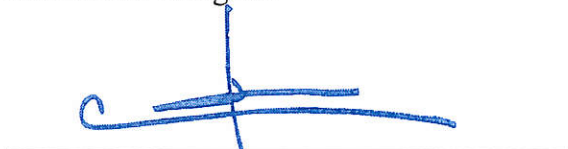
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



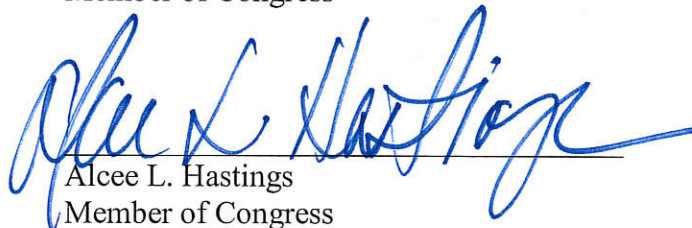
Vicente Gonzalez
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Al Green
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Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Walter Jones
Member of Congress



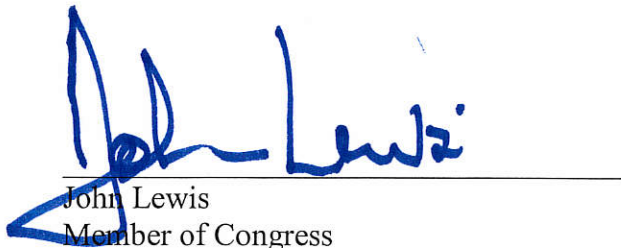
William R. Keating
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Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



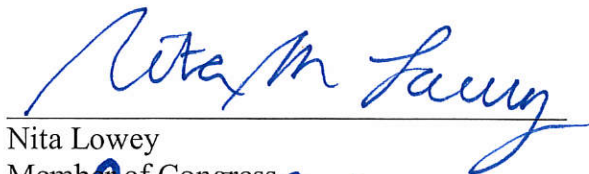
Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



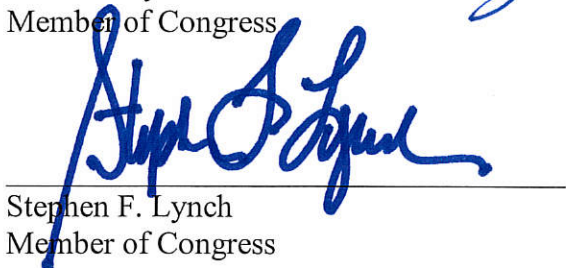
Ted W. Lieu
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Nita Lowey
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Michelle Lujan Grisham
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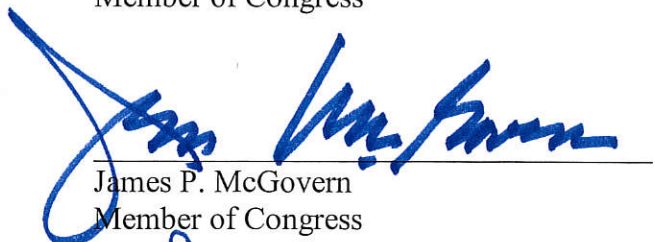
Carolyn B. Maloney
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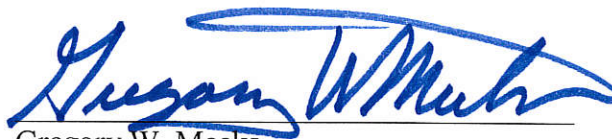
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



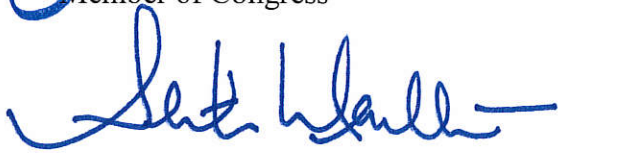
A. Donald McEachin
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James P. McGovern
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Seth Moulton
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Stephanie Murphy
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The Honorable Paul Ryan
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Charles Schumer
Page 5 of 6



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Jimmy Panetta
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Ed Perlmutter
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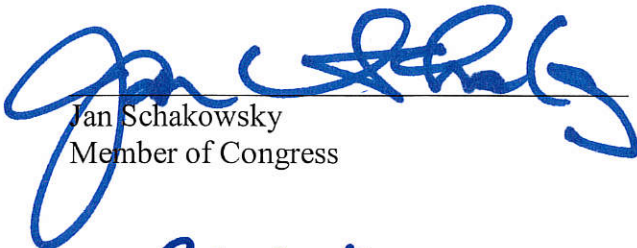
Kathleen M. Rice
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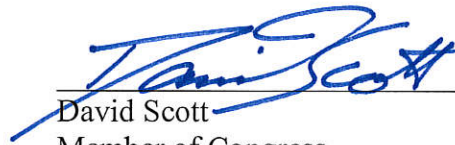
Cedric Richmond
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David Scott
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The Honorable Paul Ryan
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Page 6 of 6



Brad Sherman
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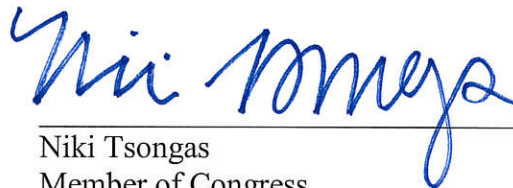
Albio Sires
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Darren Soto
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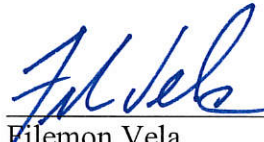
Eric Swalwell
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Juan Vargas
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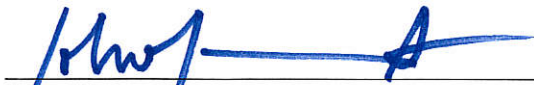
Filemon Vela
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