



National Association of Home Builders

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Government Affairs

James W. Tobin III
Senior Vice President & Chief Lobbyist

October 29, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the more than 140,000 members of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), I am writing to express NAHB's strong support for the *Homeowner Flood Affordability Insurance Act*. NAHB commends Representative Michael Grimm and House Financial Services Ranking Member Maxine Waters for introducing this important legislation, which will help alleviate some of the costly and unintended consequences caused by the implementation of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act (Biggert-Waters).

NAHB supported the passage of Biggert-Waters in order to secure a five-year reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which enables the housing industry to continue to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing to consumers. However, the implementation of Biggert-Waters has caused unforeseen affordability concerns. NAHB has heard from members across the country who are extremely concerned about the dramatic premium rate increases, as well as the remapping process. These concerns impact the sale, construction and remodeling of homes in affected communities.

The *Homeowner Flood Insurance Act* helps address these issues by delaying the implementation of higher premium rates until an affordability study can be completed; allowing for a more accurate mapping process; and providing reimbursement for successful consumer appeals. These provisions will prevent undue hardship on the recovering housing market, prevent home values from decreasing, and make the NFIP stronger and more effective for years to come.

While NAHB wishes this legislation would address the treatment of non-primary residences and the lowering of the remodeling threshold, this bill addresses many of our members' concerns with Biggert-Waters. NAHB encourages the House of Representatives to support the *Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act*, and will work to ensure that the NFIP remains affordable and viable for American homeowners.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. W. Tobin III', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James W. Tobin III

cc: All members of the U.S. House of Representatives.