



THE UNITED STATES  
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

May 28, 2024

The Honorable Patrick McHenry, Chairman  
Committee on Financial Services  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maxine Waters, Ranking Member  
Committee on Financial Services  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Support for The National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization (NFIP Re) Act of 2023 (H.R.4349/S.2142)

Dear Chairman McHenry and Ranking Member Waters,

On behalf of the National League of Cities (NLC), the National Association of Counties (NACo), and the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), we are writing to express our strong support for The National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization (NFIP Re) Act of 2023 (H.R.4349/S.2142), which was introduced in both the House and Senate. We commend Senators Bill Cassidy and Bob Menendez and Representatives Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Clay Higgins (R-LA), along with the bipartisan and bicameral group of cosponsors, for their leadership in advancing this critical legislation.

The NFIP was established by Congress to provide affordable flood insurance and encourage floodplain management regulations to reduce flooding, save lives, and protect communities. However, the lack of long-term reauthorization of the NFIP by Congress created challenges, with 25 short-term reauthorizations since FY 2017. This uncertainty hinders the ability of communities to participate in the program and maintain affordable flood insurance rates for primary, non-primary, and business properties while ensuring the program's fiscal solvency. The NFIP Re Act brings long-term certainty and stability to the program.

We want to highlight several key provisions of the NFIP Re Act of 2023 that we find particularly beneficial:

1. Protection against Rate Hikes: A cap on annual premium increases at 9% prevents disruptive cost spikes like those seen after the Biggert-Waters Act of 2012.
2. Means-Tested Affordability Vouchers: Vouchers alleviate the burden of flood insurance premiums, ensuring accessibility for low- and middle-income policyholders.
3. Cost-Saving Mitigation Efforts: Freezing interest payments on NFIP debt redirects savings to cost-saving mitigation efforts, improving solvency and reducing long-term flood impact.
4. Limits on WYO Compensation: Capping compensation through the WYO program redirects savings toward affordability, prioritizing policyholder needs.
5. Increased ICC Coverage: Expanding eligibility for Increased Cost of Compliance coverage incentivizes proactive mitigation efforts.
6. Enhanced Flood Mapping Accuracy: Increased funding and LiDAR technology improve flood risk assessment and informed decision-making.

7. Oversight and Claims Process Reforms: Measures enhance oversight, terminate abusive contractors, and improve the claims and appeals process.

In summary, the NFIP Reauthorization Act of 2023 is a comprehensive piece of legislation that addresses various critical aspects of the flood insurance program. By tackling rate hikes, affordability, solvency, mitigation, mapping accuracy, oversight, and claims process reforms, the act aims to create a more stable and effective flood insurance program to serve communities at risk of flooding better.

We firmly believe that the NFIP Re Act of 2023 aligns with our shared goals of safeguarding communities, protecting critical infrastructure, and ensuring affordable flood insurance for residents and businesses.

We greatly appreciate your dedication to improving the National Flood Insurance Program and the well-being of communities across the country and urge you to pass this critical legislation as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Clarence Anthony  
CEO and Executive Director  
National League of Cities



Matthew D. Chase  
CEO and Executive Director  
National Association of Counties



Tom Cochran  
CEO and Executive Director  
The United States Conference of Mayors