

September 14, 2017

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Brian Schatz
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Cory Booker
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Van Hollen, Schatz, and Booker:

SmarterSafer – a coalition of taxpayer advocates, insurance representatives, environmental groups, housing organizations, and mitigation experts – applauds your efforts to reinstate the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (federal flood standard).

Flooding is the most common and costly natural disaster in the United States, damaging infrastructure, devastating lives, and disrupting the economy. Annual flood losses have increased from \$5.6 billion per year in the 1990s to more than \$10 billion in the 2000s. In addition, as we have seen in just the past couple of weeks with flooding from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, more people and property are at risk of flood-related natural disasters than ever before and the costs to repair, rebuild, or replace our public infrastructure are rising as a result.

The federal flood standard seeks to better protect people and property from harmful flooding. By establishing building standards that incorporate the best science on flooding and requiring structures receiving federal funds to build at safe elevations, not only are people and property better protected, but federal investments are protected for the long-run. When federal funds are being used to build or rebuild structures or to subsidize structures, the government should ensure the taxpayer investments are being made in safe, resilient ways. The Administration's repeal of the standard will leave Americans increasingly vulnerable to flooding and will put taxpayer funds at risk.

We fully support your bill to reinstate the federal flood standard, and look forward to working with you to ensure federal agencies can move forward with implementation so that American lives and property are better protected.

Sincerely,

SmarterSafer
(member list attached)