NACo urges swift House passage of flood insurance bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a letter to U.S. House of Representatives leadership, the National Association of Counties (NACo) today urged swift passage of H.R. 3370 (as amended), the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014.

NACo supports a sustainable, fiscally responsible National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that protects the businesses and homeowners who built according to code and have followed all applicable laws.

The legislation is in response to the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12), signed into law in July of 2012, which aimed to make FEMA’s flood insurance program more financially stable by reflecting true flood risks in communities.

NACo and county leaders raised concerns that implementation of BW-12 resulted in some unexpected complications, including rapidly increasing flood insurance premiums in local communities.

“A number of the nation’s 3,069 counties, both coastal and inland, have said that their homeowners and businesses are facing drastically increasing annual flood insurance premiums due to BW-12’s phase-outs of subsidized rates,” NACo President Linda Langston, supervisor, Linn County, Iowa, wrote in the Feb. 24 letter. “NACo supports amending the legislation in a way that keeps flood insurance rates affordable, while balancing the fiscal solvency of the program. NACo also supports reinstating the grandfathering of properties (not policies) that were built to code, have maintained insurance and have not repeatedly flooded.”

The Senate on Jan. 30 passed related legislation, The Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2013 (S. 1926), also supported by NACo.

Click here to read the letter. Click here to read NACo's legislative presentation on Biggert-Waters and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which describes how Biggert-Waters impacts counties and the people they serve.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo assists America’s 3,069 counties in pursuing excellence in public service to produce healthy, vibrant, safe and resilient counties. NACo promotes sound public policies, fosters county solutions and innovation, promotes intergovernmental and public-private collaboration and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. More information at: www.naco.org.