

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
H-232 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
235 Cannon House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Boehner, and Minority Leader Pelosi:

Last year, Congress passed the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and to make it self-sustainable. This legislation aims to make NFIP actuarially sound but fails to make flood insurance accessible and affordable, leaving millions of policy holders in North Carolina and across the country in dire straits and facing exorbitant rate increases.

We are united in our efforts to fix this law and find a way forward that will allow North Carolinians to continue living affordably along our rivers, coasts and waterways. These areas are critical to our state's economic wellbeing, transportation, seafood production and tourism revenue.

The House and the Senate have both shown strong support for identical language secured in each chamber's respective FY14 Homeland Security Appropriations bills that will delay the implementation of steep rate increases for some NFIP policyholders for one year while Congress works on an appropriate fix. While we support the bipartisan efforts of members in both chambers of Congress to return to regular appropriations process, we also know that the last few years have not proven successful in this noble effort.

In the event that we are unable to move the FY14 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill through regular order before the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2013, we request this provision to delay the implementation of steep rate increases be included in whatever vehicle is used to complete the appropriations process for the 2014 fiscal year, whether that is a Continuing Resolution or an omnibus bill.

Although these homeowners and businesses built to code and played by the rules, their premiums could go from a few hundred dollars per year to tens of thousands of dollars per year because of the irresponsible rate reforms included in Biggert-Waters. Our provision provides essential relief for up to 2.9 million policyholders nationwide without adding a penny to the national deficit.

While we continue to work together for a more comprehensive legislative solution, we believe it is imperative to secure this temporary measure that will bring relief to homeowners and small businesses in North Carolina and across the country. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Walter B. Jones

Walter Jones
Member of Congress

Mike McIntyre

Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress

Howard Coble

Howard Coble
Member of Congress

Mel Watt

Mel Watt
Member of Congress