



have a choice to return to the NFIP without penalty, including not losing any subsidy they previously had with the NFIP as was proposed in H.R. 1666 in the previous Congress.

It is also imperative that reauthorization legislation include measures to encourage investment in prevention and preparedness to help minimize the impact of flood damage and economic loss. It is estimated that for every dollar we invest in mitigating against future natural hazards like flooding we save six dollars. We support the inclusion of mitigation discounts, such as premium discounts or insurance rate reductions to persons who build, rebuild, or retrofit their properties to better resist flood events, and allowing individuals to set aside funds in a tax-preferred savings account for disaster mitigation and recovery expenses. We also urge the inclusion of legislation, such as the Catastrophe Loss Mitigation Incentive and Tax Parity Act of 2019 in any final legislation, which would ensure that state-based disaster mitigation grants receive the same federal tax exemptions as federal mitigation grants and help provide greater incentives for homeowners to take action to protect their homes from natural disasters. We appreciate legislative efforts to develop strategies to help reduce the number and vulnerability of repetitive loss properties. These actions along with building and maintaining structures that incorporate mitigation strategies have the potential to reduce future program losses and improve the financial condition of the program.

Finally, we support legislative reforms to ensure accurate flood mapping and increased transparency around developing and updating flood maps. Any reauthorization legislation should include strategies to increase flood insurance take up rates, including facilitating opportunities to educate consumers about flood insurance policy options, and encouraging the purchase of flood insurance for those outside of special flood hazard areas.

D. A.



*Handwritten signature: P. L. Johnson*