



CONTACT: Phil Anderson
(202) 315-5100

BuildStrong Coalition and Congressional Fire Services Institute to Host Opinion Leader Forum on Effectiveness of Strong Building Codes as a Disaster Mitigation Strategy

(Washington, DC – April 29, 2013) – On May 9th from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the BuildStrong Coalition and the Congressional Fire Services Institute will host a forum in Washington, DC where elected officials and leading experts from the emergency management community will discuss the vital role that strong building codes play in mitigating the costs of natural disasters.

The event will be open to the media.

WHAT: Building Codes Opinion Leader Forum

**WHEN: May 9th, 2013
8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**WHERE: The Washington Hilton
Georgetown Room
1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009**

To RSVP, please email Shemiah Williams at Williams_shemiah@ne.bah.com.

Event Agenda

Breakfast Keynote Speaker:

- Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart [R-FL] (Original House sponsor of the Safe Building Code Incentive Act)

Lunch Keynote Speakers:

- Congressman Steven Palazzo (R-MS)
- Thad Allen, Senior Vice President, Booz Allen Hamilton

Discussion Panel:

In addition to the keynote speakers, the forum will hold a panel discussion on building codes.

Panelists:

- Bill Jenaway, President, Congressional Fire Services Institute
- Debra Ballen, General Counsel and Senior Vice President of Public Policy, Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety
- Honorable Henry L. Green, President, National Institute of Building Sciences
- James A. Rossberg, P.E., Managing Director, Engineering Programs of American Society of Civil Engineers
- Jim Salek, Vice President of Underwriting, USAA
- Michael Lingerfelt, Chair of the Disaster Assistance Committee, American Institute of Architects
- Tami Torres Fillyaw, Senior Vice President of Outreach and Communications, Federal Alliance for Safe Homes

BuildStrong is a coalition of national business and consumer organizations, corporations, and emergency management officials dedicated to stronger building codes, in order to protect homes and buildings from the devastation of natural disasters. For a complete list of members and additional information please visit www.BuildStrongAmerica.com.