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## **BuildStrong Coalition Praises Introduction of National Mitigation Investment Act of 2016**

*The National Mitigation Investment Act of 2016 will reduce disaster losses and save lives by reforming the federal disaster system to focus on pre-disaster mitigation and resilient construction*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The BuildStrong Coalition applauds Reps. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL) and Albio Sires (D-NJ) for introducing H.R. 5177, the National Mitigation Investment Act of 2016. This bipartisan legislation will reform federal disaster policy to incentivize pre-disaster mitigation and resilient construction.

“The federal government significantly overspends on post-disaster assistance compared to pre-disaster mitigation,” said Jimi Grande, Chairman of the BuildStrong Coalition. “The National Mitigation Investment Act will go a long way in incentivizing states, localities, and individuals to make investments to reduce disaster losses over time.”

H.R. 5177, The National Mitigation Investment Act, provides an additional 4% in Hazard Mitigation Grants to states with model statewide building codes following a natural disaster. This additional funding will provide a powerful incentive for states to update their building codes to modern standards.

“The National Mitigation Investment Act is a bold proposal for improving mitigation efforts across the federal government,” said David Paulison, former administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and senior advisor to the BuildStrong Coalition. “The legislation will save lives, protect property, and reduce disaster costs for American taxpayers, and I applaud Congressmen Curbelo and Sires for their leadership on this important issue.”

H.R. 5177 also authorizes a pilot-program to award code enforcement grants to states and localities on a competitive basis. These grants will defray the costs that often prohibit willing states and localities from enacting strong building codes.

Lastly, H.R. 5177 authorizes The National Advisory Council to conduct a study to examine costs and losses from natural disasters; identify what disaster assistance is available from all federal sources, where assistance has been used, how quickly the funds are used, and how that assistance is coordinated among the various agencies and departments. The study will also provide recommendations on ways to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the delivery of such assistance, and on the fundamental principles that should drive national disaster assistance decision making, including the appropriate roles for each level of government, the private sector, and individuals.

The BuildStrong Coalition is a coalition of national business and consumer organizations, companies, and emergency management officials dedicated to promoting stronger building codes. For more on the coalition, visit [buildstrongamerica.com](http://buildstrongamerica.com).

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