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**CONTACT: Phil Anderson**  
**(202) 315-5100**

## **FEMA Administrator Long Urges Pre-Disaster Mitigation During Congressional Testimony**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The BuildStrong Coalition applauds FEMA Administrator Brock Long for his emphasis on building resilience and shifting federal resources to pre-disaster mitigation efforts during his testimony before the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee today. “I cannot overstate the importance of focusing on investing in mitigation before a disaster strikes,” said Long. “Developing resilient capacity ahead of an incident reduces loss of life and economic disruption. When communities are impacted, they should ensure that they rebuild infrastructure better, tougher, and stronger to protect taxpayer investment and promote economic stability.”

The hearing, titled “Emergency Response and Recovery: Central Takeaways from the Unprecedented 2017 Hurricane Season,” convened leading state and federal emergency managers including House Homeland Security Chairman Michael McCaul, Coast Guard Vice Admiral Karl Schultz, and representatives from Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico, among others.

“It’s encouraging to see FEMA recognize and embrace the importance of investing in resilience before a disaster strikes,” said BuildStrong Coalition Chairman Jimi Grande. “Our National Mitigation Investment Agenda is a ready-made fulfillment of these goals, and we look forward to working with federal officials like Administrator Long and those at FEMA to save lives and taxpayer dollars and build a stronger America.”

The BuildStrong Coalition National Mitigation Investment Agenda outlines core principles that, once implemented, will stop the endless cycle of rebuilding to the same outdated standards after disasters strike. Research has proven that every \$1 invested in pre-disaster preparation saves \$6-8 in post-disaster recovery costs. The Coalition’s Agenda will unlock these savings by eliminating overreliance on off-budget federal dollars and creating tools for states and communities to invest proactively.

The BuildStrong Coalition is a group of firefighters, emergency responders, insurers, engineers, architects, contractors and manufacturers, as well as consumer organizations, code specialists, and many others committed to building a more resilient America. Additional information about these provisions and other methods for saving lives and taxpayer dollars are available at [buildstrongamerica.com](http://buildstrongamerica.com).

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