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On 25th Anniversary of Hurricane Andrew, BuildStrong Coalition Unveils National Mitigation Investment Agenda

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Twenty-five years ago today, Hurricane Andrew made landfall in South Florida, causing 65 deaths, more than \$26 billion in losses, and damage to over 100,000 homes. As the U.S. remembers the lives and communities impacted by the storm on its 25th anniversary, the BuildStrong Coalition today revealed a plan to safeguard the nation against future catastrophes like Hurricane Andrew.

The BuildStrong Coalition’s National Mitigation Investment Agenda (NMIA) is a comprehensive strategy to fix our nation’s broken disaster investment model. The NMIA provides bold reforms that would shift our reliance away from reactive post-disaster emergency recovery toward proactive preparation measures that will protect communities from disasters before they strike.

Not only would these reforms save countless lives, they would also save taxpayer dollars. In fact, research has repeatedly shown that every \$1 invested pre-disaster saves \$3-4 post-disaster.

“The scale of the destruction caused by Hurricane Andrew was unprecedented. As we remember this devastating catastrophe, it is just another reminder of how important it is to ensure we are prepared for the next storm,” said Jimi Grande, Chairman of the BuildStrong Coalition. “The National Mitigation Investment Agenda outlines straightforward methods of reform that we encourage Congress and the Administration to consider in order to end the cycle of ‘rebuild and repair’ following a disaster.”

When Hurricane Andrew struck South Florida in 1992, it was the costliest hurricane in U.S. history. Since then, the storm has been surpassed in total damage costs by Hurricanes Katrina, Ike, and Sandy. The NMIA calls on reversing this trend of rising disaster costs. The five pillars of the agenda include:

- Competitively awarding federal funding to help states proactively prepare communities pre-disaster
- Incentivizing states to adopt and enforce stronger building standards
- Creating consequences for states that use dangerous, outdated building standards
- Helping states build to stronger standards post-disaster to prevent future damage
- Creating a unified federal disaster response approach with strict spending standards to ensure effectiveness

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. For more on the Coalition and the NMIA, visit buildstrongamerica.com.

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