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BuildStrong Coalition Outlines Disaster Losses in House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Roundtable

WASHINGTON, DC – The BuildStrong Coalition participated in a roundtable on March 18, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. titled, “What is Driving the Increasing Costs and Rising Losses from Disasters?” The roundtable was hosted by the Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee Chairman Lou Barletta (R-PA).

“We applaud Chairman Barletta’s leadership in tackling the tough issues surrounding the causes of the high cost of natural disasters in the United States,” said Eric Nelson, Vice President of Catastrophe Strategy & Analysis at Travelers on behalf the BuildStrong Coalition. “Where Americans are living, population growth, property values, and weather patterns have clearly played a role, as have the weaker adoption and enforcement of building codes. The BuildStrong Coalition pledges to partner with Chairman Barletta as he continues this evaluation and seeks solutions to bend down the natural disaster cost curve.”

The BuildStrong Coalition is working closely with the Chairman to spark a conversation about natural disaster policy in the United States as the Subcommittee works to launch the first comprehensive examination of U.S. natural disaster policy by Congress in almost 20 years. As part of this effort, Chairman Barletta is hosting a series of roundtables to hear from stakeholders on what policymakers can do to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters.

The roundtable examined data and information related to disaster costs and losses, the trends observed over time, and the projections for the future given the policies in place today. Participants included the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Congressional Research Service (CRS), the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and experts from the academic community and private sector.

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.

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