



CONTACT: Phil Anderson
(202) 315-5100

BuildStrong Coalition Testifies Before Senate Hearing on Role of Mitigation in Reducing Taxpayer-Costs Associated with Disaster Response

WASHINGTON, DC – The BuildStrong Coalition delivered testimony today before the U.S. Senate Homeland Security Committee’s Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations and the District of Columbia in support of S.924, The Safe Building Code Incentive Act and other practical legislative solutions to reduce taxpayer exposure to natural disasters.

“A 2012 Milliman study found that S. 924 would have saved U.S. taxpayers \$11 billion in hurricane relief payments alone between 1988 and 2011 had it been in place That's almost \$500 million a year in savings,” said Dr. Robert Detlefsen, Vice President of Public Policy at the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies on behalf of the coalition.

The BuildStrong Coalition is advocating for Congress to pass S.924, the Safe Building Code Incentive Act. This bipartisan bill, which was introduced by U.S. Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and U.S. Representative Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) (H.R. 1878), would reward states that adopt and enforce model building codes with additional disaster relief from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Qualifying states would receive an additional four percent of post-disaster relief grants from FEMA.

“The United States has spent nearly \$1 trillion dollars on disaster recovery and rebuilding since 1983,” said Detlefsen. “BuildStrong commends Senator Begich for holding this hearing to explore ways the federal government can bend this cost curve and make America more resilient against future disasters.”

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.

###