



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **BuildStrong Coalition Hails Passage of The National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2013**

WASHINGTON, DC – The BuildStrong Coalition applauded the U.S. House of Representatives for passing, H.R. 1786, The National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2013, today. Introduced by Rep. Randy Neugebauer (R-TX-19), this bill authorizes funding for increased research into reducing the economic and human toll of windstorms. H.R. 1786 is part of a suite of bills that the BuildStrong Coalition has endorsed that serves as a comprehensive natural disaster mitigation strategy for the country.

“The BuildStrong Coalition applauds Congressman Neugebauer for his leadership on disaster mitigation issues. The National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization Act will create better understanding of windstorms and the mitigation steps that can be taken to protect property, saves lives and reduce the taxpayer costs of natural disasters,” said Jimi Grande, Chairman of the BuildStrong Coalition. “We urge the Senate to adopt this important bill and for President Obama to sign it into law as soon as possible.”

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, there have been 151 weather-related disasters since 1980 that have exceeded \$1 billion in economic losses. The total cost of these catastrophes exceeds \$1 trillion. The BuildStrong Coalition is bringing emergency managers, first responders, insurers and members of the building industry together to advocate for legislative solutions to make the nation more resilient to natural disasters.

In addition to H.R. 1786, The BuildStrong Coalition is encouraging policymakers to approve the following three bills:

**The Safe Building Code Incentive Act of 2013 (H.R. 1878 & S. 924)** – Introduced by Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) and Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ), this bipartisan piece of legislation would provide states that adopt and enforce strong building codes with an additional four percent of post-disaster grants. This legislation has broad support among first responders and emergency management experts.

**The Disaster Savings Account Act (H.R. 3989 & S. 1991)** – Introduced by Rep. Dennis Ross (R-FL-15), Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) and Sen. Mark Begich (D-AK), this bipartisan bill provides a \$5,000 tax deduction for money deposited into a savings account to offset disaster mitigation costs.

**The Disaster Savings and Resilient Construction Act of 2013 (H.R. 2241)** –Introduced by Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, this bill provides tax credits to homeowners and contractors who utilize modern building science when constructing and/or renovating homes and buildings.

*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](http://www.BuildStrongAmerica.com).*

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