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FEMA Issues New Building Code Standards Based on BuildStrong Priority

WASHINGTON, DC – The BuildStrong Coalition applauds the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for issuing a new policy designed to significantly increase resilience standards during the repair and reconstruction of buildings following a major catastrophe.

The new policy states that going forward, when using Public Assistance funds to rebuild, repair, or construct public buildings and infrastructure following a major disaster, state and local governments must build to the 2015 version of the model building codes set forth by the International Code Council. The new policy is rooted in the principles of the BuildStrong-backed National Mitigation Investment Act. The legislation, introduced by Reps. Carlos Curbelo, R-Fla., and Albio Sires, D-N.J., and backed by 27 bipartisan representatives from 14 states and the District of Columbia, incentivizes and equips states and local governments to adopt and enforce model building codes created by the ICC.

“BuildStrong has been working with FEMA to encourage innovative solutions that correct our current ‘wait-and-hope’ approach to disasters,” said BuildStrong Chairman Jimi Grande. “In the wake of the devastating natural disasters that impacted the nation this year, this is an important step toward modernizing building codes, reducing the impact of extreme weather events on citizens and communities, and better guarding the U.S. from the growing cost of natural catastrophes. We’re pleased to see FEMA take a proactive step to address these issues and look forward to working with the agency, the next Administration, and champions in Congress to continue to build a stronger America.”

More information about the FEMA policy is available [here](#).

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.

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