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## **BuildStrong Coalition Submits Comments to FEMA on the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program**

*Coalition weighs in on proposed policy to invest in disaster mitigation*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Today, the BuildStrong Coalition filed comments on the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program.

Last month, FEMA published the proposed policy and requested comments and input from the stakeholder community. The BuildStrong Coalition applauds FEMA for its ongoing efforts to implement the transformational provisions of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) and engage stakeholders in the implementation of BRIC, particularly in light of the agency’s operational posture for the federal government’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The BRIC program, authorized by the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) the Coalition worked to enact in 2018, is designed to make a massive amount of new resources to communities across the nation for pre-disaster mitigation as well as facilitate new approaches to increase community, regional, state, and national resilience.

The Coalition’s comments remind FEMA that the BRIC program must focus on leveraging existing programs and other streams of funding so that impactful and transformational projects may be achieved.

“The release of this critical policy represents a key step in FEMA’s implementation of the BRIC program, which will refocus federal resources on resilience in critical lifeline infrastructure and residences in the face of disasters,” said BuildStrong Coalition Executive Director Pamela Williams. “As the current situation with COVID-19 has made all too clear, states and communities must focus on mitigation and resilience to tackle the skyrocketing costs and losses that stem from natural disasters. The BRIC program will provide critical resources for those investments.”

“On what seems like a daily basis, devastating catastrophes affecting communities across America are a constant and powerful reminder of the need to better protect homes and lives,” said Jimi Grande, Chairman of the BuildStrong Coalition. “An essential piece of the BRIC policy is designed to give states and communities more tools to adopt and enforce modern building codes and standards. The science is clear that building with updated codes is critical to leading the U.S. out of our current ‘cycle of destruction,’ where many homes are built back after a disaster to sub-par standards.”

The BuildStrong Coalition has long pushed for investing more disaster dollars in pre-disaster mitigation and modern building codes, and the BRIC program provides an additional 6 percent of annual disaster expenses for each major disaster to fund risk-reducing, cost effective mitigation grants to assist States, territories, Tribes, and local governments in building disaster resilience.

**About the BuildStrong Coalition**

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. Learn more at [buildstrongamerica.com](http://buildstrongamerica.com).

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