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BuildStrong Coalition Encourages Preparedness and Resilience as Atlantic Hurricane Season Begins

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season gets underway, the BuildStrong Coalition is reminding state, local, and national leaders across the country of the power of pre-disaster mitigation and resilient construction to protect lives, communities, and property.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, this year’s hurricane season is predicted to be more active than normal with a likely range of thirteen to nineteen named storms, of which six to ten could become hurricanes. But while hurricane season is officially here, flooding, tornadoes, wildfires, earthquakes, and other natural disasters can happen at any time and the nation must now adjust to these hazards while continuing to deal with the ongoing threat of COVID-19.

As natural disasters, including hurricanes, increase in frequency and severity, the BuildStrong Coalition is encouraging states and localities to adopt and enforce statewide, nationally recognized model building codes for residential and commercial structures. Despite knowing that every \$1 invested in pre-disaster mitigation and more resilient construction saves up to \$8 in future costs, the nation currently spends the vast majority of mitigation dollars after, instead of before a catastrophe, and only a handful of states are enforcing the most modern building codes.

“We know that Pre-disaster mitigation and the adoption of model building codes is the key to saving lives and protecting property in the face of a rising number of severe disasters,” said BuildStrong Coalition Chairman Jimi Grande. “We will continue working to advance policy like the transformational Disaster Recovery Relief and Reform Act that will give states and communities new tools to mitigate against the risk of disasters, including adopting and enforcing modern building codes.”

Last month, the BuildStrong Coalition submitted formal comments on the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s draft Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) policy created by the Disaster Recovery Reform Act. In March, the Coalition hosted its Disaster Mitigation and Resilience Forum Series in Sacramento, California on Wildfire Mitigation and Resilience. Participants included state, federal, and local leaders in resilience, along with industry representatives from the insurance and infrastructure sectors. Visit forums.buildstrongamerica.com for more.

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.

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