

December 22, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

The undersigned organizations support H.R. 5689, the “Resilient Assistance for Mitigation for Environmentally Resilient Infrastructure and Construction by Americans Act” or “Resilient AMERICA Act,” and urge you to schedule consideration of this legislation, perhaps under suspension of the rules. This legislation, which was reported from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with strong bipartisan support, would build on the resilience initiatives contained in the recent bipartisan infrastructure law and provide additional tools to reduce risks posed by a changing climate.

For every dollar invested in resilience and predisaster mitigation, the taxpayer receives anywhere from \$3.00 to \$11.00 in return.¹ Such policies are good for the environment and the economy. This bill would:

- Increase the annual spending for the new National Public Infrastructure Predisaster Mitigation fund from up to 6% to up to 15% of postdisaster funding.
- Require unspent funds to be recaptured for mitigation and resilience projects.
- Extend eligibility for Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program grant funding to private non-profit organizations.
- Provide a 10% set-aside within BRIC to enforce the adoption of newer building codes.
- Add wildfires and tsunamis, including strengthening utilities against wind, ice, and wildfire risks as eligible hazards to receive funding.
- Establish a 10% set-aside within BRIC to fund residential resilience retrofit grants — upgrades to strengthen homes resilience and comply with consensus-based codes and standards, including wind and roof retrofits, floodproofing, and constructing saferooms.

We strongly support H.R. 5689 and urge that it be brought to the House floor for expeditious consideration. We stand ready to assist you in this process.

¹ Research recently published by the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) found that building to the current (2018) common model building code standards as opposed to the model codes from the 1990s returns an average of \$11 for every dollar (11:1) invested predisaster and presents a range of other benefit-cost ratios by disaster type.

Sincerely,

American Council of Engineering Companies
American Institute of Architects
American Planning Association
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society of Landscape Architects
Build Strong Coalition
City Parks Alliance
Ecological Restoration Business Association
Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
National Association of Counties
National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies
National League of Cities
National Recreation and Park Association
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
Rural Community Assistance Partnership
U.S. Chamber of Commerce