

The Honorable David Joyce
U.S. House of Representatives
2065 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Murphy
The U.S. Senate
136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
U.S. House of Representatives
2372 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Katie Britt
U.S. Senate
SD-B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

March 13, 2023

Dear Chairman Joyce, Ranking Member Cuellar, Chairman Murphy, and Ranking Member Britt,

As organizations representing the design and construction industry, the Building Resilient Action Coalition (BRAC) is committed to supporting federal policies that provide critical assistance to improve pre-disaster mitigation. The resilience of the built environment is vital for communities across the country and additional investment should be made to support vulnerable populations.

We recognize that mitigation efforts work while also saving taxpayer dollars; for example, adopting the latest editions of published consensus-based building codes can save up to \$11 per \$1 invested.ⁱ Resilience strategies like these can and should be promoted in communities across the country as an important tool to save property – and more importantly – lives.

Congress must fund key pre-disaster mitigation programs to support communities across the country to better prepare for future disasters. We join together to call on federal appropriators to recognize that we must alleviate this burden to homeowners, business owners, and federal taxpayers. Natural disasters cost the U.S. \$145 billion in 2021 alone (when only accounting for disasters costing more than \$1 billion).ⁱⁱ As the Subcommittee on Homeland Security considers the appropriations bill for FY 2024, we urge you to include the following priorities:

- Continue funding to the level of \$200 million for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program.
- Continue FY 2024 FEMA capitalization grants, as established by the STORM Act [Public Law 116-284], at \$100 million for FY 2024.

The BRAC stands ready to work with the Committee members on both sides of the aisle to better prepare America's built environment against the threat of disaster. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,

American Institute of Architects (AIA)
Associated Builders and Contractors
BuildStrong Coalition
Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) International
Concrete Masonry & Hardscapes Association
EPDM Roofing Association (ERA)
Flood Mitigation Industry Association
International Code Council (ICC)
U.S. Green Building Council
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
National Society of Professional Engineers

ⁱ http://2021.nibs.org/files/pdfs/ms_v4_overview.pdf

ⁱⁱ <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/beyond-data/2021-us-billion-dollar-weather-and-climate-disasters-historical>