



August 29, 2023

Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker McCarthy, Leader Schumer, Congressman Jeffries, and Senator McConnell:

On behalf of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents (PIA)<sup>1</sup>, we ask that the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) be reauthorized beyond its current September 30 expiration date for as long a period as possible.

The history of NFIP extensions has been messy. The program was extended 17 times between 2008 and 2012, when the previous five-year reauthorization was signed into law. The NFIP's most recent five-year reauthorization expired in 2017, and, in advance of that deadline, the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress was unable to agree on NFIP reforms. As a result, the program briefly lapsed three times. Since 2017, the NFIP has been subject to 25 extensions of varying lengths, but none has been longer than one year. Without Congressional action, the program will expire on September 30, 2023.

If Congress allows the NFIP to lapse, consumers will be unable to renew existing policies or purchase new flood insurance policies. Claims will be paid on existing, in-force policies, but only for losses incurred before the lapse began. During a lapse, consumers engaged in real estate transactions may experience disruptions, with sales of homes in mandatory purchase zones most likely to be delayed indefinitely. If flooding events occur during a lapse, claims may not be processed until the program is reauthorized. Prior NFIP lapses are estimated to have caused

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<sup>1</sup> PIA is a national trade association founded in 1931, which represents member insurance agents in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the District of Columbia. PIA members are small business owners and insurance professionals.

disruption in over one thousand home sales per day, and the longer the lapse, the greater the disruption.

PIA supports a long-term reauthorization of the program with needed reforms, like investments in agent training, updated mapping, and a means-tested affordability program. However, Congress needs time to deliberate the many proposals that have been under consideration thus far this year. We urge you to support an extension of the NFIP for at least a year, if not longer.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue. Please contact Jon Gentile, PIA's vice president of government relations, at [jgentile@pianational.org](mailto:jgentile@pianational.org) if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Mike Becker  
Executive Vice President and CEO  
National Association of Professional Insurance Agents