

November 13, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the members of the American Bankers Association, I am writing in support of the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 2874, legislation to reform and reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

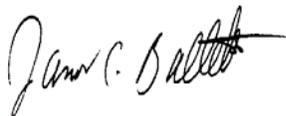
ABA strongly supports a long term reauthorization of the NFIP and we believe this legislation makes appropriate and necessary reforms, which will help to make the program more sustainable, while also balancing concerns over availability and affordability.

The five year reauthorization included in the legislation will ensure that the program is reliably available for borrowers seeking to purchase homes in special flood hazard areas where purchase of flood insurance is mandatory. In the past, the program has been allowed to lapse which leads to unnecessary delays in closing of loans, and much borrower frustration and increased costs.

We support the inclusion of provisions which will improve program compliance including required updates to the interagency compliance guidance and mandatory staffing of the Office of Flood Insurance Advocate. While we remain concerned over the cancellation of flood insurance eligibility for properties with excessive lifetime claims, we are pleased to see that the definition of such properties has been amended to cover those properties with multiple claims totaling three times the maximum coverage amount.

This legislation addresses long standing problems plaguing the NFIP while still ensuring the program's affordability and availability. We urge Members of the House to vote yes on this important legislation.

Sincerely,



James C. Ballentine

cc: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives