

March 8, 2017

The Honorable Jon Tester  
311 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dean Heller  
324 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dennis Ross  
436 Cannon House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kathy Castor  
2052 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

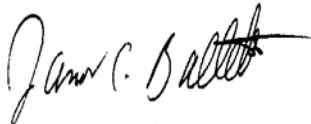
Dear Senator Tester, Senator Heller, Representative Ross, and Representative Castor:

The American Bankers Association has long supported both legislative and regulatory efforts to ensure that private flood insurance policies are more readily available as an alternative to the NFIP. We strongly support your efforts to pass legislation making this possible.

Providing consumers with alternatives to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and driving down flood insurance prices through greater competition is one way to ensure greater protection for consumers against flood damages in the mortgage markets; it is also a significant contribution to the goal of returning the NFIP to more robust fiscal health. Additionally, your legislation will make it possible for borrowers and lenders to shop for flood insurance in the same manner currently provided for home owners' insurance. This simplification of the process will make it vastly easier for borrowers to obtain flood insurance at a competitive price.

We look forward to working with you toward passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



James C. Ballentine