

Date: September 25, 2017

To: Members of the House of Representatives

From: James Ballentine, Executive Vice President, Congressional Relations & Political Affairs

Re: Support Title IV of the FAA Reauthorization (Private Flood Insurance)

On behalf of the members of the American Bankers Association, I am writing to express our strong support for Title IV of the FAA Reauthorization bill scheduled for consideration later today.

Title IV encompasses the text of legislation introduced by Representatives Ross and Castor to clarify and facilitate the use of private flood insurance policies as an alternative to the National Flood Insurance Program. This legislation passed the House Financial Services Committee earlier this year by a vote of 58 to 0 and a substantially similar bill passed the House unanimously in the last Congress.

The legislation is sorely needed to provide borrowers nationwide with additional options to protect themselves and their properties from flood peril. Private flood policies will provide greater competition and more opportunities for coverage, potentially lowering the cost and expanding the coverage against flood insurance.

As recent flooding from hurricanes Irma and Harvey have shown, broader coverage is an essential tool needed to address growing flood peril. NFIP must be preserved and reformed but so too must private policies be allowed as a part of the solution. Title IV will ensure that it can be. We urge its passage.