

**NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM
RESOLUTION OF THE
LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXECUTIVES**



At the regular board monthly meeting of the Louisiana Association of the Chamber of Commerce Executives (“LACCE”), held on the 6th day of June 2013, there being a quorum present, it was directed that the LACCE supports the following:

**Louisiana Association of
Chamber of Commerce
Executives
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dawn Sharpe-Brackett, Pres
East St. Tammany Chamber
Tony Davis, Vice President
Natchitoches Area Chamber
Scott Terry, Past President
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LaJean Lala Farmer, Sec/Treas
LA Assoc of Business & Industry
Charlotte Banks
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Sherrie Despino
Ascension Chamber
Ron Erickson, Sr.
City of Central Chamber
Rob Guidry
Greater Lafayette Chamber
Lynn Guillory
Vermilion Chamber
Todd Murphy
Jefferson Chamber
Deborah Randolph
Central Louisiana Chamber
(Alexandria)
Mike Odom
LA Assoc. of Business & Industry

WHEREAS, LACCE is a membership driven, non-profit organization formed in order to bring together the Executives of the Chambers of Commerce throughout the state. The Organization serves as a catalyst to network and educate the Executives and the staffs within the statewide chamber areas; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana local chambers represent the businesses and industry which rely on having a trained workforce living in affordable housing throughout the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, since 1968 the historical purpose of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was to provide affordable flood insurance in exchange for communities using FEMA generated and specified Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for floodplain management by the participating community; and

WHEREAS, generations of Louisiana home and business owners have made lifelong plans and investments based on the existence of affordable flood insurance as proposed by FEMA in the NFIP; and

WHEREAS, property owners have respectfully complied with and enrolled in the NFIP for the past 45 years to protect their largest personal investment and to meet the terms of a federally backed mortgage; and

WHEREAS, through the passage of the Biggert–Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act (Public Law 112-141, also referred hereto as “BW12”) signed into law on July 6th of 2012, the NFIP was revised such that the public’s trust and reliance on the program to provide affordable flood insurance protection was drastically reduced; and

WHEREAS, with no practical alternative provided for with passage of BW12, it substantially and immediately devalued the investments made in all properties receiving subsidized insurance premium rates through the drastic increase in the cost of flood insurance and all other properties in the area; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to consider the need to have a long term, sustainable and viable NFIP with rates that are affordable;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT WE, LACCE, do hereby request that our Federal Legislative Delegation create new legislation or amend and/or revise the Biggert – Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act (BW12) as follows:

I: The release of all new FIRMS for adoption by communities should be temporarily suspended. New FIRMS may continue to be developed and refined by FEMA working with local stakeholders to insure accuracy in reflecting flood risk in the community including the impacts of non-accredited levees and other features; but the maps should not be presented for adoption at this time.

II: Give communities time to work with FEMA to push enrollment into the NFIP for a special enrollment period. This limited (1 year), one time only option, would allow home and business owners to sign up or renew their NFIP policy using the currently adopted maps in their community under the following conditions. Any property that is enrolled or renewed during this period will be able to keep its pre-BW12 subsidized rate indefinitely until: 1.) the property is destroyed or abandoned by a non-flood event; 2.) the policy is allowed to lapse; or 3.) the property has a flood claim(s) equal to the insured value of the property.

III: Any property that has been enrolled or renewed during the special enrollment period as described in Section II above can be sold, donated or otherwise transferred to a new owner who will also be able to keep the pre-BW12 subsidized rate indefinitely until: 1.) the property is destroyed or abandoned by a non-flood event; 2.) the policy is allowed to lapse; or 3.) the property has a flood claim(s) equal to the insured value of the property.

IV: All new policies written after the special enrollment period, or those renewed after a lapse in coverage will be subject to the remaining portions of BW12 in full.

V: New or revised maps developed in compliance with Section I can be released to the communities after completion of the 1 year special enrollment period described in Section II or whenever they are completed thereafter. These new maps, once adopted by the communities, will set the new standards for all new construction. Further, these maps will be used to determine the actuarial flood risk for all new policies or the renewal of any lapsed policy.

VI: FEMA should consider the issuance of different policies that provide varying levels of protection and deductibles that would still allow policy holders to maintain affordable coverage.

VII: All excess annual premiums, after all annual claims have been paid, collected by FEMA through the NFIP shall remain in the NFIP fund balance and shall not be transferred to the U.S. Treasury. NFIP fund balances should be allowed to grow and be used to reduce the annual actuarial premium rates as the NFIP regains solvency.


VIII: Abandon the grandfathering phase out and target homes declared substantially damaged.

IX: Retain grandfathering of structures that have not flooded.

X: Allow all HMGP Buyout properties to redevelop at FIRM Base Floor Flood Elevation except for those structures within "V" Zones which should remain vacant open space in perpetuity.

XI: Require renovation/repair permits on all damaged structures prior to the issuance of any Flood Insurance Payments.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE AND THE VOTE DECLARED ADOPTED THIS 6TH DAY OF JUNE, 2013.


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