



LEE COUNTY
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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CITY OF SANIBEL
ADMIN./LEGIS.

February 19, 2014

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Frank Mann
District Five

Roger Desjarlais
County Manager

Richard Wesch
County Attorney

Donna Marie Collins
County Hearing Examiner

The Honorable Eric Cantor
Majority Leader
H-329, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Cantor:

On behalf of the Lee County Board of Commissioners and our respective City Councils, we write to applaud your recent announcement that the U.S. House of Representatives will vote on flood insurance affordability later this month. As you know, citizens across the country face astronomical rate hikes as a result of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act (BW-12).

We respectfully urge that the House enact a delay in rate increases for all property owners while sound measures to permanently reform the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) are evaluated. Florida's fledgling economic recovery will be derailed if Congress doesn't act to protect homeowners and entrepreneurs that have played by the rules but find themselves facing foreclosures and business closings due to unaffordable premiums.

Floridians account for nearly a third of the NFIP's annual revenues yet collect only \$1 in claims for every \$3.60 in premiums paid. If Florida were forced to find its own solution to this issue, the NFIP would be irretrievably destabilized.

We appreciate your consideration and stand ready to support realistic steps to ensure NFIP's long-term solvency.

Sincerely,

Larry Kiker, Chair
Lee County Commission

Randy Henderson, Jr., Mayor
City of Fort Myers

Ben L. Nelson, Mayor
City of Bonita Springs

Alan Mandel, Mayor
Town of Fort Myers Beach

Marni L. Sawicki, Mayor
City of Cape Coral

Kevin Ruane, Mayor
City of Sanibel

cc: John A. Boehner, Speaker of the House
Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation
County Commissioners, All Districts
Roger Desjarlais, County Manager
Richard Wesch, County Attorney
City Managers