



Steve Rasmussen, CPCU
President and Chief Operating Officer
Property Casualty Insurance Operations
Nationwide, Allied, and Farmland Insurance Companies

On Your Side™

July 10, 2007

The Honorable Maxine Waters
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Judy Biggert
1034 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 920

Dear Chairwoman Waters and Ranking Member Biggert:

I am writing to make you aware of Nationwide's continued efforts to provide the highest level of protection to our policyholders in the Gulf Coast and throughout the entire country. As a provider of traditional homeowners insurance, as well as a Write-Your-Own company through the National Flood Insurance Program, we welcome constructive dialogue on how best to provide all of our customers with the knowledge of being protected from future events.

We are very pleased that you have scheduled a hearing on Congressman Taylor's "Multiple Peril Insurance Act of 2007." We share Mr. Taylor's concern that appropriate coverages be available for all residents ... his constituents are, after all, our customers.

Nationwide believes H.R. 920 has served a valuable purpose in furthering discussion and dialogue about meaningful and practical alternative approaches to the "wind vs. water" debate. We appreciate this and other related issues being foremost on the agenda of many Members, their constituents, and our customers. While questions regarding process and implementation need to be addressed, we encourage you and your Subcommittee to continue to hold critical hearings.

In addition to the option of adding other perils to flood policies, we continue to be a strong advocate for reforming the entire National Flood Program, as well as exploring other areas aimed at establishing available and affordable property insurance for all Americans. I have attached a Nationwide document outlining our specific flood reform recommendations, as well as a document summarizing our broad views on managing coastal risks. We applaud Chairman Frank's decision to appoint Congressmen Mahoney and Klein as the key drafters of other meaningful legislation involving the interaction of federal and state governments with the insurance industry. Nationwide's CEO, Mr. Jerry Jurgensen, and I have met with the Congressmen, while also continuing our outreach to other Members of both parties, and begun what we believe is a constructive dialogue.

Nationwide stands ready to work with you, Congressman Taylor, and other members in finding sound solutions to natural catastrophic insurance needs and look forward to playing a pivotal role in any public/private partnership.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Steve Rasmussen
President and COO
Nationwide Property Casualty Insurance Operations

cc:

The Honorable Barney Frank
The Honorable Gene Taylor
The Honorable Paul Kanjorski
The Honorable Tim Mahoney
The Honorable Ron Klein
The Honorable Charlie Wilson

The Honorable Spencer Bachus
The Honorable Deborah Pryce
The Honorable Ginny Brown-Waite
The Honorable Paul Gillmor
The Honorable Steve LaTourette