



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

*The Voice For Real Estate®*

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June 7, 2006

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
U.S. Senate  
716 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

I am writing on behalf of the more than 1.3 million members of the National Association of Realtors® (NAR) to thank you for highlighting the importance of having a federal natural disaster policy by introducing four bills last month. Natural disasters that would be covered in your legislation include earthquakes, cyclones, tornadoes, volcanic eruptions and severe winter storms that affect nearly every state.

The Board of Directors of the National Association of Realtors agreed in May to make passage of natural disaster legislation a top priority for NAR. This issue is very important to REALTORS® in Florida and across the country. Insurance companies are pulling out or refusing to write new policies in disaster-prone areas, leading to skyrocketing premiums or no insurance at all for property owners. As you stated on the Senate floor, “[t]he unavailability of reliable property insurance would make most real estate transactions impossible.” It is critical that Congress address the issue of available and affordable insurance to property owners.

NAR is committed to working with Congress to develop an approach to solving the problem of available and affordable disaster insurance to property owners in vulnerable regions. We applaud your efforts to raise the profile of this important issue in the Senate and look forward to working with you to develop a comprehensive solution that protects private property owners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'T. Stevens'.

Thomas M. Stevens, CRB, CRS, GRI  
2006 President, National Association of REALTORS®