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William E. Malkasian
Chief Advocacy Officer/Senior Vice President

Shannon McGahn
Senior Vice President Government Affairs

500 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001-2020
Phone 202-383-1194
WWW.NAR.REALTOR

March 11, 2020

The Honorable Dina Titus
Chair
U.S. House Subcommittee on
Economic Development, Public
Buildings and Emergency Management
2464 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Katko
Ranking Member
U.S. House Subcommittee on
Economic Development, Public
Buildings and Emergency Management
2457 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Titus and Ranking Member Katko:

On behalf of 1.4 million members engaged in all aspects of real estate, the National Association of REALTORS® thanks you and the Subcommittee for your continuing oversight and this important hearing on “FEMA’s priorities in 2020 and beyond: Coordinating Mission and Vision.”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has the primary responsibility within the executive branch to prepare for, mitigate against and respond to the effects of non-terrorist-related disasters in the United States. If a national emergency is declared, FEMA coordinates the national response leveraging the Disaster Relief Fund to help funnel requests and supplement the fiscal needs of all groups – at all levels of government and outside – responding to the crisis. In addition, FEMA has several critical programs to REALTORS®, including the National Flood Insurance Program, Flood Hazard Mapping and Risk Analysis Program, and the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs. In particular, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program helps provide for resilient buildings and infrastructure to bring stability to real estate markets. According to an updated National Institute of Building Sciences study, each \$1 spent on federal hazard mitigation saves the nation \$6 in future disaster costs.

While NAR applauds Congress and FEMA for taking great strides particularly in the resilient building and infrastructure space and the recent Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, REALTORS® would encourage Congress to:

- Continue to fully authorize and fund FEMA’s pre-disaster mitigation and hazard mapping programs, which help property owners, businesses and communities to locate and build more safely;
- Reauthorize and reform the National Flood Insurance Program to become self-sustaining in the long run; and
- Provide for disaster ready infrastructure so communities and property owners can recover more quickly and fully from natural disasters, the costs of which have been trending upward especially since 2005.

Thank you again for your leadership and this hearing. REALTORS® stand ready to assist you and the rest of Congress in your efforts to provide for and fund resilient infrastructure and buildings for the nation.

Sincerely,

Vince Malta
2020 President, National Association of REALTORS®



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