

November 29, 2022

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chair
House Energy & Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
House Energy & Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

RE: Request for Expedited Consideration in the House Energy and Commerce Committee and on the House Floor in Support of the National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act of 2022 (H.R. 6461/S. 3531)

We, the undersigned organizations representing resilience in the design and construction industry, are writing today to express the Building Resilient Action Coalition's (BRAC) strong support for the National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy (NCARS) Act of 2022 (H.R. 6461/S. 3531). We strongly recommend that the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the full House of Representatives expeditiously pass this bipartisan legislation, which has already been approved by the U.S. Senate.

We recognize that pre-disaster mitigation planning is a crucial government policy that saves taxpayer dollars and, more importantly, saves lives. In fact, a recent study by the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) found that for every \$1 that the federal government invests in mitigation efforts, federal agencies save, on average, \$6. Those savings are increased when considering the adoption of the latest consensus-based building codes and standards, resulting in as much as \$11 saved after disasters strike for every \$1 invested when accounting for property losses, direct and indirect business interruption expenses, casualties and PTSD, insurance, and urban search and rescue costs.

Natural disasters are dramatically increasing in costs and provide an escalating challenge for both the U.S. government and communities around the country. The NCARS Act would significantly improve pre-disaster mitigation resilience planning across the federal government by requiring the production of a 'whole-of-government' National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy and Implementation plan to be overseen by a new Chief Resilience Officer position.

Additionally, the bill would establish up to five interagency resilience Working Groups and a non-federal Partners Council to better strengthen coordination between federal agencies and other relevant government entities, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

The NCARS Act would also significantly improve equity throughout federal programs meant to improve community resilience by focusing federal agency resilience planning efforts to support frontline communities at risk of natural disasters who are often under-resourced.

Language included in the Senate bill encourages the Chief Resilience Officer to standardize (and consistently define) the term "resilience" across all federal agencies, which will significantly help entities

applying for pre-disaster mitigation federal assistance. Doing so will help eliminate inconsistencies and confusion as it relates to how the federal government interprets 'resilience' throughout varying federal application processes, which would be especially helpful for economically disadvantaged communities who historically struggle to apply for federal assistance. It will also alleviate bureaucratic requirements that can cause delays in responding to communities in need of assistance, while wasting taxpayer dollars in administrative costs.

We thank you for your careful consideration of this important bill and urge you to expeditiously pass the National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy (NCARS) Act of 2022 out of the House Energy & Commerce Committee as well as the House of Representatives. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

American Institute of Architects (AIA)
American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC)
ASHRAE
Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) International
BuildStrong Coalition
Community Associations Institute
International Institute of Building Enclosure Consultants
National Steel Bridge Alliance (NSBA)
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives