



STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

THE DISASTER ASSISTANCE EQUITY ACT OF 2017, H.R. 3238

On behalf of the 68 million Americans living in community associations, also known as condominiums, homeowners' associations and housing cooperatives, Community Associations Institute (CAI) and National Association of Housing Cooperatives (NAHC) are pleased to endorse the Disaster Assistance Equity Act of 2017.

In the wake of natural disasters, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) inconsistently interprets regulations in a way that prohibits associations from qualifying for federal disaster response and recovery programs. The Disaster Assistance Equity Act is common sense legislation that clarifies community association eligibility for disaster debris removal and disaster repair assistance in a responsible manner.

We applaud Congressman Mark Sanford's (R-SC) steadfast leadership in ensuring disaster relief fairness for community associations. Following Hurricane Matthew's ravage of South Carolina's coast in 2016, Congressman Sanford visited communities to gain a keen understanding of what is involved in disaster recovery and what FEMA's role should be in assisting all American's with immediate disaster recovery efforts.

Like other homeowners, community association residents protect their homes by purchasing insurance and work with local governments to prepare for natural disasters. Association homeowners pay the same local, state and federal taxes as neighborhoods without an association. As such, they should qualify for the same benefits. However, when disaster strikes, these taxpayers are told their community does not qualify for disaster assistance. Forcing association homeowners to fund 100 percent of their neighborhood's disaster recovery places severe financial burdens on households and impedes community recovery.

Disasters do not discriminate between community association neighborhoods and non-association neighborhoods. Neither should our nation's natural disaster response and recovery policy.

CAI and NAHC are ready to work alongside Congressman Sanford, Congressman Engel (D-NY), Congressman Nadler (D-NY), and Congressman Zeldin (R-NY) and fight for the passage of this critical legislation to allow communities to receive the vital assistance they deserve. We urge other Members of Congress to support the Disaster Assistance Equity Act of 2017 and ensure that all U.S. households have equal opportunity and support to recover from natural disasters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Skiba".

Thomas M. Skiba, CAE
CEO, Community Associations Institute

6402 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 500
Falls Church VA, 22042
703-970-9220
www.caionline.org

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Carlson".

Gregory J. Carlson
President, NAHC

1441 I Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005
202-737-0797
www.nahc.coop