News Release

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|  | MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS  XXXX, (XXX) XXX-XXX  xxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx |

***Fill-in-the-Blank News Release Highlighting Local Realtor® Association***

***Meetings with Congressional Representatives***

*The following “fill-in-the-blank” news release is designed to help you gain publicity in your local news outlets following meetings with your Member of Congress during the August District Work period.*

*Place it on your company or local board/association letterhead with the blanks filled in as indicated.*

* *Include a contact name and number at the top of the release.*
* *Send the release to the appropriate editor/reporter at the outlet.*

*Feel free to use NAR's logo in addition to your association’s logo, or simply replace this logo with yours*

* ***If possible, your chances of exposure will increase significantly when a photo is provided to media, particularly those in small or medium sized outlets. A link to a collection on your association’s website is the most ideal way to accomplish this.***

**[Local Association of Realtors®] discussed NFIP reform, reauthorization with [Rep. XXX]**

*Realtors® outline program’s impact on [local region’s] housing market*

**[Your city** **(Date)]** — Representatives from the **[Local Association of Realtors®]** today met with [**Congressman/woman XX and members of his/her**] staff at the **[insert name of meeting space]** in **[Location**]. While covering a variety of topics, **[Xxx-day’s]** meeting focused on efforts to secure the future of the National Flood Insurance Program and highlight its impact on **[local region’s]** housing market.

The **[Local Association of Realtors®],** along with the National Association of Realtors® in Washington, D.C., has spent recent years urging Congress tomakegenuine movement toward long-term reform and reauthorization of the NFIP. Earlier this year, the House of Representative advanced related legislation, H.R. 3167, through committee and expect a vote sometime this fall. This bill would reauthorize the NFIP for 5 years, increase the program's mitigation tools and update its mapping scope and technology.

“For too long, Congress has allowed the National Flood Insurance Program to operate on a string of short-term extensions that do nothing to secure the strength or viability of the program as we look to the future,” said **[Local Association President First Name Last Name].** “For people across **[local region]**, that uncertainty has put home sales in jeopardy and left insurance policies in limbo. But the worst consequence is the long-term threat this inaction poses to all of our homes and businesses. Very simply, without reforms, the NFIP’s ability to continue providing critical protections to people in our community is very much in doubt.”

Over the past two years, the NFIP has been extended through a dozen separate short-term extensions, with two brief lapses occurring over that time. As of now, the program retains flood-insurance-writing authority through September 30, 2019, but even with a vote on H.R. 3167 expected in the House soon, another lapse in the program is not out of the question.

“As we are reminded in this country every year, floods are not just a coastal issue,” said [**Local Association President Last Name].** “Since 1996, 98% of U.S. counties have had at least one federal disaster declaration, showing just how important it is that Congress act quickly to reauthorize and reform the NFIP.”

The NFIP currently provides up to $350,000 of flood insurance coverage where required for a federally backed mortgage. However, according to the Congressional Budget Office, the program is not charging enough in premiums to cover expected claims in catastrophic loss years, and has already borrowed over $30 billion from taxpayers to make up the difference.

“The National Association of Realtors® is grateful that Congress has spent this year working towards a bipartisan, long-term solution for the National Flood Insurance Program,” said NAR President John Smaby, a Realtor® from Edina, Minnesota. “H.R. 3167 is not only a sensible, bipartisan path forward, but it also includes numerous NAR-championed policies, including those that secure long-term reauthorization, strengthen mapping and mitigation, and facilitate a more robust private insurance market. These reforms are critical to people in **[local region],** and also to the sustainability of the NFIP. “

**[Your association or company boilerplate here.]**

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