The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is essential to completing half a million property sales each year[^1], but it must be reauthorized by September 30, 2019 to continue providing flood insurance. REALTORS® support H.R. 3167 and urge Congress to find a way forward on a long-term NFIP reauthorization.

**Properties at Risk**

Every property in the state has some flood risk; wherever it rains, it can flood, yet not all at-risk are insured.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>392,650</td>
<td>Total housing units, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26,034</td>
<td>Housing units in the state within a 500-year floodplain, 2015[^2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,737</td>
<td>Number of NFIP policies in force as of April 30, 2019[^3]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1%</td>
<td>Percent of housing units with an NFIP policy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Flood Insurance Benefits to Policyholders**

For many, owning a property is the biggest source of wealth. The NFIP offers substantially more rebuilding assistance than FEMA’s Individuals and Households Program (IHP) for uninsured properties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$16,097</td>
<td>Average NFIP dollar amount paid on residential claims for properties in the state, 1996–2016[^5]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,842</td>
<td>Number of NFIP paid claims[^5]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,415</td>
<td>Average IHP disaster payment to those without flood insurance in the state, 2006–2016[^6]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,978</td>
<td>Number of IHP disaster payments[^6]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

98% of U.S. counties have experienced at least one major flood disaster declaration.[^7] Without flood insurance, property owners must turn to the federal government for rebuilding assistance. The total cost to taxpayers of uninsured property damage is $3.4 billion each year.[^8]

[^1]: Source: NAR estimate
[^2]: Source: NYU Furman Center FloodzoneData.us based on FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer as of May 2016
[^3]: Source: NAR tabulation of FEMA Policies Redacted Data Set released July 16, 2019 (data through as of April 30, 2019).
[^4]: Source: NAR estimate using data from U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey and Federal Housing Finance Agency Home Price Index
[^7]: Source: FEMA
[^8]: Source: Congressional Budget Office: Expected Costs of Damage from Hurricane Winds and Storm Related Flooding, p.3, April 2019

The one-year cost of flood damage to the residential sector is $20 billion, of which 17% is for federal disaster assistance ($3.4 B).


National Association of REALTORS®
August 2019