



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

September 20, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Capitol Building, S-221
Washington, DC 20510-7020

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is currently set to expire on September 30, 2010 – less than two weeks away. Unless we act to extend or reauthorize this vital program, homebuyers and sellers will not be able complete transactions, renew current flood insurance policies, or increase policy coverage. Unfortunately, re-authorizing NFIP after it expires will not address the problem. We must do everything we can to ensure the NFIP continues without further disruption.

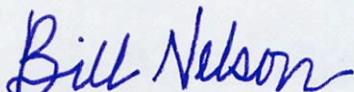
Florida and Louisiana have a lot at stake with the re-authorization of the flood insurance program. Our states have more than two and a half million flood policies in force, representing half of all flood policies written in the United States. We are in the middle of hurricane season, and the likelihood of a hurricane reaching land raises the stakes even higher for folks who live along the Gulf Coast and the Eastern Seaboard.

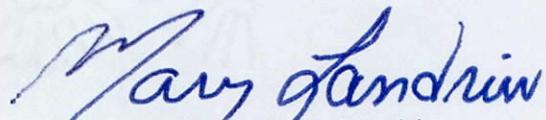
To make matters worse, Florida and Louisiana remain in the throes of the worst housing crisis in decades. The ability of homeowners to buy and sell homes without undue delay is fundamental to the recovery of our economy. In fact, some of the real estate transactions affected by the potential lapse of coverage involve sales by homeowners facing foreclosure. This uncertainty over flood insurance is wreaking havoc upon the region's already fragile real estate market – yet another reason why we need a long-term solution.

We respectfully ask that you continue to work with our colleagues to re-authorize NFIP before September 30, 2010, and we stand ready to assist you in this effort.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,


Senator Bill Nelson


Senator Mary Landrieu