



CITY OF OCEANSIDE

January 13, 2020

The Honorable Mike Levin
U.S. House of Representatives
1626 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE DISASTER ASSISTANCE EQUITY ACT OF 2019 (H.R. 5337)

Dear Congressman Levin:

On behalf of the City of Oceanside, I'm writing to request that you cosponsor the *Disaster Assistance Equity Act of 2019* (H.R. 5337). This bipartisan bill amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure that residential common interest communities, including condominiums and housing cooperatives, are eligible for the same Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance currently available to other homeowners.

The legislation makes two key changes to the Stafford Act, which would benefit our constituents: (1) real estate owned by a residential common interest community would be eligible under FEMA's requirements for the removal of debris or wreckage in the aftermath of a major disaster when a State or local government determines in writing that such debris or wreckage "constitutes a threat to life, to public health or safety, or to the economic recovery of the residential common interest community"; and (2) the repair of essential common elements of a residential common interest community (i.e., a roof, exterior wall, heating and cooling equipment, elevator, stairwell, utility access, plumbing, and electricity) would be eligible under FEMA's Individuals and Households Program (IHP). These eligibility changes would only apply after a major disaster or emergency has been declared by the President under the Stafford Act.

In the event our community were to experience a presidentially-declared natural disaster or emergency, homeowners who reside in condominiums and housing cooperatives should be able to receive federal financial resources for structural elements and common areas shared and owned by all residents collectively. Thousands of Oceanside residents would benefit from these new eligibility changes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Peter Weiss
MAYOR

cc: Oceanside City Council