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FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A. Trey Traviesa Representative, District 56

February 27, 2007

Dear Chairman,

As you requested, I have enclosed certain ideas for the Commission's review. Since I began working on this issue, I have found that, for me, most ideas fall into two categories. One category of ideas is characterized by improvements in implementation to the windstorm mitigation program(s) in place (e.g. "allowing repairs incident to mitigation" in the My Safe Florida Home). Ideas in the other category look more like state mitigation policy and funding improvements. Your idea of "stamping" every home with a wind rating to encourage the right mitigation-related private-market dynamics is an excellent example here.

I believe there are a number of opportunities to improve the speed, scale and quality of existing programs, most of which relate to properly engaging private enterprise in the mission, while providing for appropriate oversight of taxpayer money and inspection/mitigation service levels. For example, requiring a maximum 30 day turnaround from homeowner's "first touch" with the program and delivery of all inspection documentation to homeowners, designated insurance company representatives and contractors, is an option. Tying legislatively enacted benchmarks for speed, scale and quality results to top Department priorities is another.

With regard to ideas related to policy improvements, I have detailed a few below. If I am testing the commission's scope with some of these, feel free to reign me in. As I have mentioned, this Commission's recommendations will carry great weight and I hope our recommendations venture into audacious territory.

1 - Florida Catastrophic Storm Risk Management Center of Excellence.

The Legislature should consider establishing and funding, within Florida's state university and community college systems, an institute to align and develop thought leadership, as well as academic and applied research related to all aspects of catastrophic storm risk management (storm forecasting, loss modeling, building construction/mitigation, insured/insurer risk management) in order to maximize Florida's preparedness for and responsiveness to catastrophic storms.

2 - Property Tax Credit/Discount Scale for Mitigated Structures.

The Legislature should consider creating a tax credit scale associating structural wind ratings to property tax credits/discounts. For developers, an impact fee credit should be considered for the development of homes rating highest on this scale.

3 - "Texas Approach".

Appropriate state agencies should partner with building construction product manufactures for development and higher utilization of wind-proof materials, including the exploration "nano-material" applications or R&D possibilities.

4 - Educate Floridians.

The Legislature should consider tasking and funding state agencies to partner with private organizations to promote mitigation programs and educate Florida's citizens about mitigation benefits and opportunities.

5 -Manufactured Home Mitigation.

The Legislature should consider continuing the availability of services and funds available for Florida's manufactured home residents for mitigation improvements meeting proven engineering specifications.

Thank you for your consideration of these ideas among the many excellent proposals I am certain the Commission will review.

Warm regards,

Rep. Trey Traviesa
Florida House of Representatives
House District, 56

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A. Trey Traviesa
Representative, District 56

February 27, 2007

Dear Chairman,

Enclosed are my notes from committee deliberations regarding emerging recommendations. I have indicated my impression of support for each recommendation with asterisks.

*** - Strong support ** - Moderate support * - Some support

The Legislature should: recommendation

1. ***Require all structures to carry a "public" wind rating and require disclosure of this rating at any point of sale. (Would require wind-ratings inspection prior to any sale.)
2. **Establish a compact with federal and local government to allow 404 and 406 funds to be utilized for mitigation
3. ***Create a property tax credit and impact fee discount program tying wind ratings for all structures to a credit/discount scale
4. ***Establish and fund Florida Catastrophic Storm Risk Management Center of Excellence
5. ***Tilt MSFH program incentives to homeowners willing to undertake "total home hardening."
6. ***Provide for mitigation education programs to raise mitigation value awareness level
7. **Fully fund Mobile Home Mitigation programs
8. *Change effective date of building code changes to allow for six month "grandfather" period
9. *Provide MSFH requirement exemptions to certain qualified and otherwise licensed or certified professionals
10. *Sever 4 hour course requirement from MSFH participation for licensed contractors and add as contractor CE option

I look forward to bringing these recommendations and others into our discussion as we move forward with effective legislation.

Warmest Regards,

Rep. Trey Traviesa
House of Representatives, District 56