



National Association of  
State Energy Officials

May 20, 2022

The Honorable Gary Peters, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs  
SH-442 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman, Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs  
SR-448 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Opposition to HR 5673 – STORM Act Technical Corrections Bill

Dear Chairman Peters and Ranking Member Portman:

The National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) is strongly opposed to the so-called “Technical Corrections Bill” for the STORM Act (HR 5673), that has passed the U.S. House of Representatives. NASEO represents the 56 governor-designated State and Territory Energy Offices. Among our members’ key activities is advancement of energy emergency preparedness and response and physical and cyber-related energy security. This includes work to lead and/or support Emergency Support Function (ESF)-12. We also appreciated the cooperation from your offices during the development of the amendments to the Stafford Act, contained in the Disaster Recovery and Response Act of 2018.

In 2018, there was an attempt to gut the provisions of the DRRA and prevent updated building codes, including building energy codes, from being adopted, especially in the FEMA Building Infrastructure and Resilient Communities (BRIC) program. You resisted that effort on a bipartisan basis and an effective compromise was achieved, including a specific “sunset” provision. The cost-benefit to both taxpayers supporting disaster recovery and individual building owners is well documented and tremendous. We are very concerned that HR 5673 would set back state and national efforts to enhance resilience and pre-disaster mitigation. Whether caused by natural disasters or climate change, resilient, effective and energy-efficient building codes are a necessary tool in our arsenal to protect consumers and communities, and taxpayers that often pay part the bill for reconstruction following disasters. Allowing narrow special interests to dictate changes through HR 5673 and thus gut efforts at resilience is both short-sighted and costly – more taxpayer (and building owner) money unnecessarily spent on disaster response than would be necessary. In these tough times where every federal dollar is critical, and every state, local and taxpayer dollar is precious, we should not allow this legislation to shift the modest, near-term cost away from developers and the substantial long-term cost to taxpayers and homeowners.

Thank you for your consideration. We are happy to respond to any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Terry, Executive Director, NASEO

cc: State Energy Directors

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