SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE STRATEGY ACT

THE PROBLEM

There is an urgent need for action at all levels of government to improve our nation’s resilience to the growing frequency, intensity, and cost of flooding and other extreme weather events. The magnitude of the problem is underscored by disaster costs increasing by an average of more than $225 billion each decade since 1980. The impacts are felt by every state and territory, destroying lives and livelihoods in urban and rural areas along the coast and inland. While no community is immune, marginalized and less-resourced populations bear the brunt of these impacts and are least able to prepare and recover.

Following last year’s historic investments in resilience planning and projects with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, it is critical that we break down the federal government’s siloed approaches to disaster preparedness that often create inefficiencies and challenges for state and local partners. A collaborative national resilience strategy between federal, state, and local governments is needed to better steward taxpayer dollars and better protect communities from the dangers of flooding and other disasters.

THE SOLUTION:

Bipartisan legislation introduced in Congress, the National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act (S.3531 / H.R.6461) can help fill the nation’s resilience gaps by:

1. Creating a Chief Resilience Officer within the White House to improve the coordination of federal resilience initiatives.
2. Developing a national resilience strategy that better streamlines federal support, leads with science, puts nature to work, and addresses historical inequities.
3. Taking stock of federal barriers to enhancing climate resilience and identifying solutions to address them.
4. Equipping local leaders with the resources, data, and tools necessary to successfully plan for future risk to flooding and other disasters.

The bill creates a first-ever Chief Resilience Officer position within the White House. Just as the growing number of states that have appointed Chief Resilience Officers, establishing dedicated federal leadership will ensure that resilience efforts are integrated and fiscally aligned across all agencies and departments.

The bill will produce a national resilience strategy that unifies federal efforts across agencies. The strategy will develop long-term plans that factor in climate threats; and create federal working groups to identify agency inefficiencies and coordinate resilience goals. The strategy will include financial incentives to promote local and state adaptation efforts, improve infrastructure resilience, and prioritize the use of nature-based solutions.

The bill promotes equity and efficiency. The Chief Resilience Officer will lead efforts to regularly track and report out on federal resilience efforts, available resources for local partners, and opportunities to effectively and equitably distribute funding.

The bill gives a diverse set of stakeholders a seat at the table in developing the national resilience strategy. This bill will create a Partners Council on Climate Adaptation and Resilience to account for the values and needs of state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, NGOs, as well as the private sector. The Partners Council will identify federal actions that address inequities, streamline support for communities and states, enhance technical assistance, increase local capacity, and better support the on-the-ground needs of those most under-resourced and at-risk.
STATE AND LOCAL SUPPORT FOR
THE NATIONAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE STRATEGY ACT

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A Red Circle (MO)
Adams Economic Alliance (PA)
Adaptation International (TX)
Advocacy For Principled Action in Government (TX)
Alegro Private Tours (CA)
Alianza Center (FL)
All Aboard Wisconsin (WI)
Allegheny Land Trust (PA)
The American Institute of Architects, Minnesota
  Chapter (MN)
American Planning Association, Michigan Chapter (MI)
American Planning Association, Wisconsin Chapter (WI)
Anaheim Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Anaheim Transportation Network (CA)
Anza-Borrego Foundation (CA)
Ben Archer, State Farm Insurance (TX)
Artist Boat (TX)
Association of Wisconsin Regional Planning
  Commissions (WI)
Audubon South Carolina (SC)
Office of the Chief Resilience Officer (City of Austin, TX)
Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation (CA)
Bayfield Chamber & Visitor Bureau (WI)
Bayou City Water Keeper (TX)
Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Birch Run/Bridgeport Area Chamber of Commerce (MI)
Black Millennials for Flint (MI)
Bolingbrook Area Chamber of Commerce (IL)
Office of the Mayor (City of Bolivar, TN)
Brandywine Red Clay Alliance (PA)
Bridging the Gap (MO)
Bronco Power Boost (TN)
Bronx Chamber of Commerce (NY)
Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce (NY)
Bucks County Association of Township Officials (PA)
C.C. We Adapt (WI)
Caldwell Land Solutions (CA)
Cambria Regional Chamber (PA)
Carbondale Chamber of Commerce (IL)
Central Coast Climate Collaborative (CA)
Chester County Association of Township Officials (PA)
Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce (IL)
Chippewa Valley Transit Alliance (WI)
Circular Indiana (IN)
Citizens’ Climate Lobby Connecticut Chapter (CT)
Citizens’ Climate Lobby Kansas Chapter (KS)
Citizens’ Climate Lobby Louisiana Chapter (LA)
Citizens’ Climate Lobby Middle Tennessee Chapter (TN)
Citizens’ Climate Lobby Missouri Chapter (MO)
Citizens’ Climate Lobby Northeast Tennessee
  Chapter (TN)
Citizens’ Climate Lobby South Dakota Chapter (SD)
Clean Water Expected in East Tennessee (TN)
The CLEO Institute (FL)
Port of Cleveland (OH)
Climate Adaptation Planning and Analytics, LLC (OR)
Climate Advocate (MS)
Climate Council of Greater Kansas City (MO)
Climate Reality Project (TX)
Climate Resilience Consulting (IL)
Climate Resolve (CA)
Coastal Prairie Conservancy (TX)
Columbus Chamber of Commerce (OH)
Office of Mayor John Cooper (City of Nashville, TN)
Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce (IA)
Dakota Resources Council (ND)
Darby Creek Valley Association (PA)
Defend H2O (NY)
Delaware County Chamber of Commerce (PA)
Delaware Highlands Conservancy (PA)
Delta Institute (IL)
Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce (MI)
Discovery Green (TX)
Duluth Chamber of Commerce (MN)
Office of the Mayor (City of Dunlap, TN)
East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (FL)
Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce (WI)
Eco-Claire (WI)
Energy Care (MO)
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership (PA)
Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (VA)
Fat Peach Farm (NH)
Florida Floodplain Managers Association (FL)
Florida For Good (FL)
Florida League of Cities (FL)
Florida Rural Water Association (FL)
Florida TaxWatch (FL)
Florida Wildlife Federation (FL)
Foundation for Florida Environmental Protection (FL)
Foundation for Renewable Energy and Environment (NY)
Fourth Economy Consulting (PA)
Friends of Dunkard Creek (PA)
Friends of the Bay (NY)
Friends of the Chicago River (IL)
Galveston Bay Foundation (TX)
Galveston Maritime Business Association (TX)
Gary Chamber of Commerce (IN)
Gathering Waters: Wisconsin’s Alliance for Land Trusts (WI)
Gilhooley’s Restaurant & Oyster Bar (TX)
Grand Canyon Trust (AZ)
The Greater Durand Area Chamber of Commerce (MI)
Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce (MO)
Green Building Alliance (PA)
Green Oaks, Libertyville, Mundelein, Vernon Hills Chamber of Commerce (IL)
green|spaces Chattanooga (TN)
Hannah Reefs (TX)
Harpeth Conservancy (TN)
Harrell Insurance (SC)
Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC (PA)
Brian Hayward and Associates, American Family Insurance (OH)
Headwaters Economics (MT)
Heartland Renewable Energy Society (MO)
Heritage Conservancy (PA)
HGA Architects & Engineers (MN)
Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania (PA)
Housing4Climate2.0, LLC (OR)
IDEAS For Us (FL)
Indiana Chamber of Commerce (IN)
Iowa Association of Councils of Governments (IA)
Iowa Environmental Council (IA)
The Island Institute (ME)
City of Issaquah (WA)
Jamboree Housing (CA)
JASA (NY)
Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis (MO)
JONAH Affordable Housing Task Force (WI)
JONAH Environmental Task Force (WI)
Kingston Citizens (NY)
Office of the Mayor (City of La Crosse, WI)
Laer Realty Partners (MA)
Lake Travis Fire Rescue (TX)
Lancaster Conservancy (PA)
Lancaster Farmland Trust (PA)
League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania (PA)
Legacy Vacation Resorts (FL)
LegacyWorks Group (CA)
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Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Lower Chartiers Watershed Association (PA)
Memphis River Parks Partnership (TN)
Metro Flood Diversion Authority (ND)
The Miami Foundation (FL)
Michigan Land Improvement Contractors Association (MI)
Michigan Municipal League (MI)
Michigan Wildlife Conservancy (MI)
Mighty Roots, LLC (NH)
Milwaukee Riverkeeper (WI)
Minneapolis Regional Chamber (MN)
Minnesota Asphalt Paving Association (MN)
Minnesota Association of Floodplain Managers (MN)
Minnesota Council of Foundations (MN)
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MN)
Minocqua Area Chamber of Commerce (WI)
Misho’s Oyster Company (TX)
Missouri Coalition for the Environment (MO)
Missouri Farmers Union (MO)
Missouri Solar Energy Industries Association (MO)
Mobilegs (MN)
Model Forest Forestry Program (ID)
Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (NY)
Mountain Watershed Association (PA)
Mutual Insurance Companies Association of Indiana (IN)
My Flood Risk (FL)
Mystic River Watershed Association (MA)
National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils (AL)
Natural Lands (PA)
Network For Sustainable Solutions (TN)
New Jersey Future (NJ)
New Northside Missionary Baptist Church (MO)
New River Conservancy (NC)
New York Building Congress (NY)
New York Solar Energy Society (NY)
New Yorkers for Clean Power (NY)
Next Leadership Development (MA)
North Orange County Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Ohio Environmental Council (OH)
Orange County Business Council (CA)
Orange County Conservation Corps (CA)
Orange County Taxpayers Association (CA)
Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, Inc. (NY)
PADI AWARE Foundation (CA)
Partnership for Southern Equity (GA)
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce and Civic Association (CA)
PennFuture (PA)
Pennsylvania Association of State Floodplain Managers (PA)
Pennsylvania Council of Churches (PA)
Pennsylvania Municipal League (PA)
Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society (PA)
Pennsylvania Solar Center (PA)
Pier 6 Seafood and Oyster House (TX)
Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce (PA)
Placework Architecture (NH)
Prestige Oyster (TX)
Protect Our Aquifer (TN)
Queens Chamber of Commerce (NY)
The ReFill Station (NH)
Regional Plan Association (NY)
Renew Missouri (MO)
Residents Working Against Huron River Flooding (MI)
Resilient Cities Catalyst (NY)
Resource Environmental Solutions (SC)
River Alliance of Wisconsin (WI)
Riverfront North Partnership (PA)
Robinwood Center (NH)
Rural Housing Coalition of New York (NY)
Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce (MI)
Saltonstall Farm (NH)
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History & Sea Center (CA)
Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Schuylkill Headwaters Association (PA)
SEEDS Ecology & Education Centers (MI)
Sequoia Riverlands Trust (CA)
Shadybrook Village Condominiums (FL)
City of Shoreline (WA)
SiteWorks, LLC (CO)
Skokie Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IL)
Solar United Neighbors of Florida (FL)
South Carolina Coastal Conservation League (SC)
South Carolina Insurance News Service (SC)
South Carolina Wildlife Federation (SC)
Southeastern Climbers Coalition (TN)
Southern California Water Coalition (CA)
Star Island Corporation (NH)
Strawberry Banke Museum (NH)
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Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota (MN)
Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TN)
Tennessee Conservation Voters (TN)
Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council (TN)
Terra Firma Landscape Architects (NH)
Texas Brewed Alliance (TX)
Texas House Caucus on Climate, Environment, & The Energy Industry (TX)
The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia (PA)
The Reno/Sparks Chamber of Commerce (NV)
The San Diego River Park Foundation (CA)
Three Rivers Development Corporation (NY)
Turtle Island Restoration Network (TX)
Tygart Valley United Way (WV)
United Way of Humphreys County (TN)
Upstream Pittsburgh (PA)
Valley Industry and Commerce Association (CA)
Vermont Conservation Voters (VT)
Vermont Natural Resources Council (VT)
Virginia Conservation Network (VA)
Washington County Chamber of Commerce (PA)
Waterkeepers Chesapeake (PA)
Watershed Committee of the Ozarks (MO)
Wausau Community and Economic Development (WI)
WeConservePA (PA)
West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum (MI)
West Shore Chamber of Commerce (PA)
West Virginia Conservancy Agency (WV)
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy (WV)
West Virginia Rivers Coalition (WV)
Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce (IL)
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (PA)
Westmoreland County Economic Growth Connection (PA)
Westside Housing (MO)
Wetlands Watch (VA)
Whitewater Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Council (WI)
Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce (PA)
Willistown Conservation Trust (PA)
Winnetka Northfield Glencoe Chamber of Commerce (IL)
Wisconsin Conservation Voters (WI)
Wisconsin Transit Riders Alliance (WI)
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Mayor Bryan Kennedy (City of Glendale, WI)
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Robin Leary, Supervisor (Eau Claire County, WI)
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Mayor Esther Manheimer (City of Asheville, NC)
Kriss Marion, Supervisor (Lafayette County, WI)
Felesia Martin, Supervisor (Milwaukee County, WI)
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Digit Matheny, Board Member, South Carolina Wildlife Federation (SC)
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Corey O’Connor, Councilmember (City of Pittsburgh, PA)
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James Rumfelt, Board Member, South Carolina Wildlife Federation (SC)
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South Carolina State Representative Todd Rutherford, District 74 (SC)
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Steve Sandstrom, Supervisor (Bayfield County, WI)
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Tami Schraufnagel, Supervisor (Eau Claire County, WI)
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Steven Shea, Supervisor (Milwaukee County, WI)
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Stephen Tanner, Stormwater Program Manager, Berkeley County (SC)
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Jerry Wilkie, Supervisor (Eau Claire County, WI)
South Carolina State Senator Kent Williams, District 30 (SC)
Mayor Steve Williams (City of Huntington, WV)
Claudette Williams, Councilmember (Mount Pocono Borough, PA)
Steven C. Williamson, Manager (Village of Key Biscayne, FL)
Aaron Wojciechowski, Councilmember (City of Oshkosh, WI)
South Carolina State Representative Chris Wooten, District 69 (SC)
Joanna Wozniak-Brown, Adaptation Professional, American Society of Adaptation Professionals (CT)
Yosemite Conservancy (CA)
Priya Zachariah, Chief Resilience Officer (City of Houston, TX)
Texas State Senator Judith Zaffirini, District 21 (TX)
Denton Zeronas, Board Member (Slippery Rock Borough, PA)
Jim Zons, Supervisor (Dunn County, WI)