

Resolution No. 7

Date: 6/8/2013

City: Washington, DC

NAHB Resolution

Title: Disaster Relief and Recovery
Sponsor: Federal Government Affairs Committee
Submitted by: Chuck Fowke

WHEREAS, catastrophic natural disasters, which due to their geographic scope, the extent and severity of destruction and damage, and/or the number of persons displaced from their homes can quickly overwhelm the response capacities of affected state and local first responders;

WHEREAS given this broad scope of effects, relief and recovery activities for catastrophic natural disasters typically require substantial human, financial, and technological resources and capabilities and support from the federal government and other entities;

WHEREAS, home builders and their respective state and local home builder associations (HBAs) in affected areas, many of whom have experienced disaster-related losses to their homes and businesses, also play a critical role in the recovery and rebuilding efforts;

WHEREAS, long-term recovery activities, including repairing, replacing and rebuilding single family homes and multifamily rental housing; rebuilding infrastructure such as roads and sidewalks; replacing neighborhood amenities such as parks and community centers; restoring public facilities that have been affected or destroyed; and rebuilding businesses aid in community and economic recovery;

WHEREAS, failure to provide support and resources promptly typically increases the cost of recovery and increases the toll on those affected;

WHEREAS, regulatory and legislative barriers at the local, state and national levels oftentimes hinder the ability of the full suite of recovery efforts to proceed expeditiously; and

WHEREAS, shortages and price pressures in building materials that may already exist in the market typically worsen considerably in the aftermath of a disaster,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) call on Congress and the administration to continue to focus on ways to improve the nation's readiness and capacity to respond to catastrophic disasters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB call on Congress, the administration and state and local governments to take proactive steps to facilitate and hasten community recovery and rebuilding efforts, such as:

- Adopting regulatory and legislative measures such as temporary waivers and/or permit streamlining;
- Streamlining, simplifying, and expediting building permit applications and inspections;
- Building their capacity to address increased demand for multiple victims assistance programs such as financial assistance or loans for repair and replacement of housing, rental assistance and other emergency housing funds for displaced and homeless persons; and the rebuilding of businesses; and
- Temporarily waiving federal wage requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB call on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to improve coordination and cooperation among all federal agencies involved in recovery and rebuilding efforts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB call on Congress and the administration to ensure that sufficient federal disaster funds are authorized and provided expeditiously to affected areas.

Board of Directors Action:	Approved
Executive Board Action:	Recommends Approval
Resolutions Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Housing Finance Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Construction, Codes & Standards Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
State and Local Government Affairs Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Federal Government Affairs Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Environmental Issues Committee Action:	Recommends Approval

This resolution updates and replaces policy due to sunset: 2005.9 No. 1 Hurricane Katrina