

Bill Would Hike Premiums for Flood Claims

(November 24) -- U.S. House lawmakers have passed legislation that would reauthorize the the National Flood Insurance Program for another five years, let state and local governments help policyholders with repeat claims to elevate, relocate, demolish, or floodproof their properties, and boost premiums for policyholders who choose not to comply with mitigation plans.

Some 48,000 of the 4.4 million homeowners covered by the NFIP have made at least two flood claims in 10 years, costing the government \$200 million annually.

Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) says the bill will simply force homeowners who continue to live in flood zones to pick up more of the tab than others. The legislation probably will not be considered by the Senate until 2004, however.