



**Statement By:
Stronger Safer Florida**

Regarding Today's House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee Meeting and HB 1107

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today leaders from the statewide business, consumer and conservation groups who represent Stronger Safer Florida, thanked members of the House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee for voting in favor of House Bill 1107.

Thomas C. Feeney, III, President & Chief Executive Officer, Associated Industries of Florida

"Today members of the House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee took a necessary first step to reform the overrun Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund and better protect the Florida business community and all Floridians from the risk associated with the government-run entity. The potential for 'hurricane tax' assessments in the wake of the next major storm or series of storms poses a huge financial threat to all Floridians. As agreed upon by various business, consumer and environmental groups, as well as Florida's Insurance Consumer Advocate, HB 1107 is absolutely necessary in order to spread Florida's insurance risk outside of the state. We urge the full legislature to realize the importance of this good bill as well as SB 1262, and pass significant Cat Fund reform legislation this session."

David Hart, Executive Vice President, Florida Chamber of Commerce

"We applaud the House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee for voting in favor of HB 1107. It is unfair to continue to force Florida's business community as well as all Floridians to be financially responsible for any Cat Fund shortfall the next time a major storm or series of storms makes landfall on Florida's coast. We wholeheartedly agree with Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund Chief Operating Officer Jack Nicholson and Florida's Insurance Consumer Advocate Robin Smith Westcott that due to the excess capacity in the marketplace, the time has come to reform the Cat Fund and diminish the ongoing risk associated with its current structure. We urge the full legislature to realize this is an opportune time to support Cat Fund reform and pass HB 1107 into law."

Jay Liles, Policy Advocate, Florida Wildlife Federation

"We thank Chair Bryan Nelson, bill sponsor Rep. Bill Hager (R-Boca Raton) and the entire committee for realizing the importance of reforming the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund this legislative session. Voting in favor of HB 1107 is an important first step to better protecting Florida's environment by eliminating the requirement that all Floridians subsidize reckless coastal development in the most hazardous areas of the state. The Florida Wildlife Federation believes this bill is good public policy that better protects both Florida's environment and the people who call the Sunshine State home. As HB 1107 moves through the legislative process, we urge the full legislature to realize the importance of passing Cat Fund reform legislation this year and encourage our elected leaders to vote in favor of this good bill."

Christian R. Cámara, Florida State Director, R Street Institute

“The House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee made a responsible public policy decision today that will shore-up Florida's property insurance market and safeguard the state's economic future. Right-sizing the Cat Fund so that it can actually make good on the coverage it sells not only helps to avert an unprecedented economic crisis following a bad hurricane season, but will also send a signal to property insurers looking to bring their capital into Florida that we are open for business. This is certainly a step in the right direction, and one that the Senate should follow.”

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Stronger Safer Florida is a nonpartisan coalition comprised of business, consumer and environmental groups from throughout Florida. For more information, visit www.strongersaferflorida.org.