



# The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

*Serving Currituck and Dare Counties, Ocracoke Island*

P.O. Box 1757 • 101 Town Hall Drive • Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

252.441.8144 *Voice* • 252.441.0338 *Fax*

info@outerbankschamber.com

On behalf of over 1,000 members, the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce strongly urges you to vote for **H.R. 3370, the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act with an amendment**. The bill as amended would resolve most of the unintended consequences and uncertainties created by implementation of the Biggert-Waters law and still raise revenue. It would correct the unintended consequences by repealing key provisions that are driving the most excessive and inaccurate rate increases imposed on recent home purchases. It would also require that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) refund excessive premiums to those who already bought a home but were not warned by FEMA of the increase before purchasing the property.

On October 1, 2013, FEMA imposed full-risk actuarial rates on all properties purchased after July 2012. Because FEMA delayed releasing the new rates and then retroactively applied them, home buyers bought their properties before they could be warned of a rate increase.

The amended version of H.R. 3370 would correct the situation and bring much needed clarity by simply repealing the uncapped, point-of-sale increases. It would reign in a federal agency that has failed to comply with major parts of a law including the requirement to submit an affordability study, already 8 months overdue from its statutory deadline

The affordability study could hold the key to showing how pervasive the insurance rating errors are and how best for Congress to address them over the longer term. In the interim, the bill would restore and refund the previous rate for those already seeing an increase and also eliminate future increases for properties purchased or built to code and “grandfathered” under previous flood insurance rate maps when the maps are updated. The bill would also establish a FEMA advocate and provide additional resources to investigate property owner concerns over rate quote discrepancies. To pay for these changes, the amended bill includes a modest per-policy assessment that will keep the program on solid financial footing over the longer term.

Please vote “yes” when the enhanced H.R. 3370 Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act reaches the floor. Home and small business owners cannot afford to wait while FEMA continues to implement excessive rate increases that are stalling home sales and inhibiting the housing recovery in communities nationwide.

Sincerely,

Mike Pringle  
Chairman of the Board  
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

Karen S. Brown, MBA, IOM  
President & CEO  
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

*Your key to information and services on North Carolina's Outer Banks!*

[www.outerbankschamber.com](http://www.outerbankschamber.com)

