



For Immediate Release: May 13, 2011

Contact: Joshua Saks, National Wildlife Federation, 202-797-6631, Saksj@NWF.org
Shana Udvardy, American Rivers, 202-347-7550, SUdvardy@americanrivers.org

Reauthorization of National Flood Insurance Program Protects People, Property, and the Environment

Washington, DC (March 13, 2011) – Today, the House Financial Services Committee reported H.R. 1309, the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2011. The bill reauthorizes the National Flood Insurance Program and protects people, property, and environmentally sensitive areas by removing subsidies that encourage over-development of floodplains.

[Joshua Saks](#), senior legislative representative for Water Resources at the National Wildlife Federation, said:

“For too long, Congress has hit the snooze button on the National Flood Insurance Program. The ongoing Mississippi flooding once again underscores the urgency to protect people and the environment through better floodplain management. These recent flooding events make tragically clear the wake-up call needed to truly reform the nation’s flood insurance program.

“This is a strong first step toward reforming a program that encourages irresponsible floodplain development at taxpayers’ expense. We are pleased that the bill reported out of committee fixes some of the most egregious subsidy issues and will put us on a path toward more responsible floodplain management.”

“American Rivers believes that the best outcome for communities and rivers is to protect and restore our natural defenses – our rivers, wetlands, floodplains and upland and coastal areas,” said [Shana Udvardy](#), director of Flood Management Policy for American Rivers.

“We urge strong support of incentives that encourage communities to mitigate floods and move people out of harm’s way, as well as address affordability issues for some communities. Natural flood mitigation approaches are a win-win considering that every dollar invested in mitigation yields \$5 in avoided losses.

“As the record flooding on the Mississippi River moves south and the scenes of devastation in Mississippi River communities continue,” said Udvardy, “now is the time for Congress to ensure that the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2011 truly reforms the National Flood Insurance Program so that it will protect American communities and the rivers they depend on.”

###