Flood Insurance: What Changes Will Float to the Top?  
Communications, Financial Services & Interstate Commerce Committee  
Monday, Aug. 7, 2017  
8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Session Agenda and Speaker Biographies

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is set to expire in September and bills have been introduced in Congress to overhaul the program and encourage private companies to step in. What will the NFIP look like moving forward?

8:45 – 8:55 a.m. Welcome and Introductions  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Hawaii  
Legislator Vice-Chair  
Communications, Financial Services & Interstate Commerce Committee

8:55 – 9:45 a.m. Speakers’ Remarks


9:05 – 9:15 Roy Wright, Deputy Associate Administrator for Insurance and Mitigation, Federal Emergency Management Administration, Washington, D.C.

9:15 – 9:25 Donald Griffin, Vice President, Personal Lines, Property Casualty Insurers Association of America, Illinois

9:25 – 9:35 Robert “Ned” Dolese, President, Coastal America Insurance Company, Mississippi


9:45 – 10:00 a.m. Discussion & Questions from the Audience
Robert "Ned" Dolese
President
Coastal America Insurance Company
Mississippi
Ned Dolese is the President and one of the founders of Coastal American Insurance Company, a regional property and casualty insurance company providing homeowner's insurance, headquartered in Gulfport, MS. Coastal American began operations in 2010 and has grown to become one of the largest writers of homeowner's insurance which includes the peril of wind along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. In 2016, Coastal American became one of the first Insurance Companies in America to cover the peril of flood as an endorsement on their homeowner's policy. Ned Dolese has extensive experience in various lines of insurance including life, health, disability and annuity lines. He was previously Chairman and CEO of a regional life insurance company from 1997 through 2003. Within three years of formation, the company had the single largest market share in their line of business in Louisiana. Through acquisitions of other insurance operations, the company became one of the largest providers of insurance within a three-state area. Mr. Dolese was able to expand the business and to accomplish growth for the company through a combination of new product sales, acquisitions and capital sources including equity, debt and reinsurance. He currently resides in Bay St. Louis, MS. He is the father of three children, Robert, a Senior @ L.S.U., a son Thomas who is currently attending Pearl River Community College and Caroline who is in the 10'Th grade at St. Josephs Academy in Baton Rouge, LA. His hobbies include fishing and golfing.

Donald Griffin
Vice President, Personal Lines
Property Casualty Insurers Association of America
Illinois
Don Griffin is Vice President, Personal Lines with the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI). PCI is the largest property and casualty insurance trade association with nearly 1,000 member companies nationwide. PCI’s members write 35 percent of the property and casualty insurance market. Don and his staff are responsible for development of public policy on personal automobile, personal and commercial property, catastrophe, state, federal and international financial insurance issues. He is PCI’s point person in Chicago on catastrophe and flood insurance issues. Including almost 20 years with PCI, Don has over 35 years of experience in the property and casualty insurance business including management responsibilities at both agency and company levels. Prior to joining PCI, he worked for the California Casualty Insurance Group based in San Mateo, California. Don’s experience also includes profit and loss responsibility for personal lines at Hall’s Insurance Agency, Inc. in southeast Texas, business insurance sales for Liberty Mutual and life insurance sales for Integon Life Insurance Company. He has served as staff liaison to the Agricultural Risk and the Property Insurance Committees, addressing such issues as credit, mold, loss database and state and federal disaster legislation. He has also worked on terrorism, service contract, general liability, building codes, professional liability and financial public policy issues. He is a member of the Society of Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters, and holds the Associate in Regulation and Compliance, Associate in Reinsurance, Associate in Risk Management, and Associate in Underwriting designations.

Velma Smith
Officer, Government Relations
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Washington, D.C.
Jennifer Webb
Counsel, Federal Government Affairs
Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America
Washington, D.C.
Jennifer (“Jenn”) Webb currently serves as Counsel for Federal Government Affairs at the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (the Big “I”) in Washington, D.C. At the Big “I” Jenn directs the development of policy positions on legislative and regulatory initiatives important to independent insurance agencies, including flood insurance. Previously, Jenn held roles with the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents (PIA) and the National Conference of State Insurance Legislators (NCOIL). Jenn earned her B.A., from Tulane University in New Orleans, L.A., also studying at the London School of Economics. Jennifer earned her J.D., from The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law in Washington D.C.

Roy Wright
Deputy Associate Administrator for Insurance and Mitigation
Federal Emergency Management Administration
Washington, D.C.
Roy E. Wright serves as the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Deputy Associate Administrator for Insurance and Mitigation. He leads FEMA’s Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration that delivers the agency’s risk management, risk reduction, and flood insurance programs. Under Mr. Wright’s leadership, these programs act as a catalyst to drive increased understanding and proactive actions to help people in communities reduce their losses from natural hazards. Mr. Wright directs the National Flood Insurance Program, the mitigation and resilience programs under FEMA’s Stafford Act authorities, the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, and the National Dam Safety Program. FEMA’s programs promote a risk-conscious culture, enable faster recovery from flood disasters, and address long-term vulnerabilities to life, property, and well-being in communities across the Nation. He chairs the inter-agency Mitigation Framework Leadership Group (MitFLG) that coordinates mitigation and resilience efforts across the federal government in consultation with State, local, Tribal, and Territorial governments as well as the private sector. Mr. Wright is also responsible for the delivery of environmental and historic preservation technical assistance and compliance across all FEMA programs. Mr. Wright was appointed to the Federal Senior Executive Service in 2013. He holds a Master of Public Administration from The George Washington University and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Azusa Pacific University. In prior capacities, Mr. Wright served as a strategy consultant, as the program executive for FEMA’s Risk MAP program, and as policy advisor to the Secretary of the Interior focused on land conservation measures. A native of California, Roy and his family live in northern Virginia.