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CONTACT: Susan Nolan
Candace Thorson
NCOIL National Office
518-687-0178

STRONG BUILDING CODES KEY TO STATE MITIGATION, NCOIL RESOLUTION ASSERTS

Boston, Massachusetts, July 24, 2006—Legislators preparing for years of heightened storm activity weighed in on the need for effective statewide building codes during the National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) Summer Meeting here. On July 22, lawmakers adopted a *Resolution in Support of the Adoption of Stronger Building Codes and Building Requirements* as the next step in NCOIL's effort to encourage state preparedness activity.

The resolution, among other things, recognizes the significant threat that natural disasters pose to communities across the country, as well as the ability of strong building codes and land-use measures to mitigate losses.

The resolution supports the adoption in each state of statewide construction standards and related inspection and enforcement measures; building codes that are flexible, affordable, and do not inhibit competition; and the incorporation by all levels of government of appropriate disaster mitigation and emergency preparedness. The resolution also encourages each local and/or state government to convene experts that would assist the public sector in protecting communities from natural events.

Sen. Steven Geller (FL), sponsor of the resolution and chair of the NCOIL Subcommittee on Natural Disaster Insurance Legislation, pointed to the success of his state's construction requirements. "Establishing and enforcing strong building codes is one of the most significant things state legislators can do to protect against costly losses from

natural disasters. Every state can benefit from standards that address its specific catastrophe exposures.”

The resolution likely will lay the groundwork for further NCOIL discussions regarding construction and land-use management. It was adopted by the Subcommittee on July 21, the Property-Casualty Insurance Committee on July 22, and the Executive Committee on July 23.

The July 20 through 23 NCOIL Summer Meeting took place at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers.

NCOIL is an organization of state legislators whose main public policy concern is insurance legislation and regulation. Many legislators active in NCOIL either chair or are members of the committee responsible for insurance legislation in their respective state houses across the country. More information is available at www.ncoil.org.

For further details, please contact the NCOIL National Office at 518-687-0178.

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