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NCOIL MOVES STATE MITIGATION EFFORTS FORWARD WITH NEW LAND-USE RESOLUTION

Seattle, Washington, July 24, 2007 — The National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) took a big step forward to promote state mitigation on July 20, when lawmakers unanimously adopted a proposed *Resolution Regarding State Land-Use Policies* during the July 18 through 21 NCOIL Summer Meeting here.

The resolution recognizes the devastating impact that catastrophes can have on communities, properties, and economies and urges states to study the degree to which they have developed and implemented hazard mitigation plans, including land use.

According to Rep. George Keiser (ND), NCOIL Treasurer and co-sponsor of the resolution, “Mitigation isn’t only about enforcing strong building codes, though that’s critically important. It’s also about deciding where and in what way to allow development in the first place—about making the sometimes controversial choices that, in the end, are the best options for the consumers we represent. The NCOIL resolution,” he said, “will encourage local governments to do what’s right, if they haven’t already.”

The resolution supports requiring, via statute, that updated land-use policies take into consideration hazard mitigation issues and sets forth items that should be included in appropriate land-use strategy. These include:

- participation by various stakeholders
- measurable objectives and timelines for implementation
- collaboration between various layers of government
- recognition of the rights and responsibilities of property owners
- identified alternatives for development in high-hazard areas
- provisions for consumer education

The land-use resolution, which also was sponsored by NCOIL Past President Sen. Steven Geller (FL), is the second leg of a mitigation package being developed by NCOIL and follows the

unanimous adoption in March 2007 of a *Model State Uniform Building Code*. Legislators will discuss the third leg, regarding financing mechanisms, at an upcoming NCOIL conference.

A friendly amendment to the *Resolution Regarding State Land-Use Policies* encourages states to adopt the NCOIL building code model act and to coordinate land-use strategies with FEMA to determine the appropriate allocation of disaster mitigation grants.

The NCOIL Subcommittee on Natural Disaster Insurance Legislation adopted the land-use resolution on July 19, followed by the Property-Casualty Insurance Committee on July 20 and the Executive Committee on July 21.

NCOIL is an organization of state legislators whose primary interest is insurance legislation and regulation. Many legislators active in NCOIL either chair or are members of the committees 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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