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### ILF TO HOLD HEARING ON NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE

**Albany, New York, May 15, 2001 --** The Board of Directors of the Insurance Legislators Foundation (ILF), a research and educational arm of the National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL), will hold a hearing on issues that need to be addressed in a state legislators’ guide on flood risk and insurance, Illinois State Rep. Terry Parke, President of the ILF and NCOIL, announced today.

Rep. Parke said the hearing specifically will seek testimony on ways in which state legislators can improve awareness of flood risks and flood insurance protection, promote sound floodplain management, and assist victims of flooding disasters.

According to a notice of hearing released today, the ILF will hold the hearing at the Hotel Inter-Continental Chicago, North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, on Friday, July 13, 2001, from 8:00 to 10:30 a.m.  The ILF will hold the hearing in conjunction with the NCOIL summer meeting, July 12 through 15. The ILF will use the hearing testimony in a study it is conducting under an agreement with the Flood Insurance Administration (FIA) of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

FEMA administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which makes federally- backed flood insurance available in communities that adopt and enforce floodplain management ordinances aimed at reducing flood losses. More than 4.2 million flood insurance policies, amounting to more than $525 billion in coverage, are in force today nationwide.  Over 19,000 communities across the country participate.

However, according to the notice of hearing, the fact remains that many individuals, businesses, and governmental agencies, as well as health care, educational, and transportation facilities and structures have inadequate flood insurance coverage or no coverage at all.

Rep. Parke said the ILF recognizes that state legislators can help develop strategies to promote sound land use management and building practices to prevent flood damage and protect constituents, as well as to assist state and local governments and victims in flood disasters.  He said the ILF would welcome comments on:

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| -- the availability of flood insurance through the NFIP for public buildings as an effective risk management tool to protect taxpayers and facilitate rapid recovery; |
| -- how state legislators can interact with the NFIP and implement sound floodplain management techniques to promote livable communities and environmental protection; |
| -- ways in which states can support disaster resistant communities and foster education of insurance agents, adjusters and real estate professionals on the NFIP; |
| -- federal and state funding sources to cover the costs of flooding disasters, including state trust funds; |
| -- the mandatory purchase provisions of the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 and its effects onthe investments of state-regulated banks against the risk of flooding; |
| -- how the insurance claims process relates to the disaster relief process. |

Those wishing to testify at the hearing must submit a summer meeting registration form and a request to testify form to NCOIL by mail: 139 Lancaster Street, Albany, NY 12210-1903, or by fax: (518) 432-5651.  This notice of hearing and the registration and request to testify forms are available on the NCOIL web site at [www.ncoil.org](http://www.ncoil.org/), or by calling the NCOIL National Office at (518) 449-3210.  Persons testifying must submit an electronic copy of their written testimony to the ILF by June 20, 2001, and bring 50 copies with them on the day of the hearing. The ILF will accept written testimony from persons unable to testify at the hearing until August 15.