

**RESOLUTION NO. 026 - 2022**

**A RESOLUTION OF MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT FEMA'S RISK RATING 2.0 WILL INCREASE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE POLICY PREMIUMS AND SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION AND REFORM ACT THAT INCLUDES PROVISIONS TO PROTECT AFFORDABILITY, SPECIFICALLY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A CAP ON ANNUAL PREMIUM INCREASES OF NO MORE THAN 9%, AND OTHER MEASURES THAT STRENGTHEN THE PROGRAM AND ENCOURAGE FLOOD RISK MITIGATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, flooding is the number one natural disaster in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Flood Insurance Program ("NFIP") is a program created by Congress to mitigate future flood losses across the United States, by providing access to affordable flood insurance protection for property owners and to provide an insurance alternative to disaster assistance to meet the increasing costs of repairing damage to buildings and their contents caused by floods; and

**WHEREAS**, the NFIP must be reauthorized by Congress every five years. The current authorization expired on September 30, 2017. Since then, Congress has authorized numerous short-term extensions of the program, with the most current extension set to expire on February 18, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the NFIP maintains a significant role in providing financial protection against flood events to Florida's and Monroe's residential and commercial property owners; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Florida has the highest number of NFIP policies, with over 1.7M policies and 35% of the national portfolio; with the highest insured value at \$442B; and the highest annual premiums paid at \$976M; and

**WHEREAS**, Monroe County has over 31,000 NFIP policy holders with about \$7.5B in insured value; and

**WHEREAS**, the Monroe County Board of County Commission has long recognized flood insurance affordability as (1) a critical pocketbook issue for our residents and business owners, (2) an important component of affordable housing, and (3) a significant factor in our community's property values and tax base; and

**WHEREAS**, Monroe County continues to demonstrate its commitment to responsible flood plain management and to reducing flood risk in our communities by its participation in the Community Rating System (CRS) and its advancement from CRS Class 10 in 2016 to a Class 3, which will officially take effect in April 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, FEMA has begun the implementation of Risk Rating 2.0 which takes effect for all new policies as of October 1, 2021 and for all existing policies upon renewal after April 1, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, Risk Rating 2.0 will dramatically change the way FEMA prices NFIP premiums, and will now account for series of new flood risk factors for individual properties including: proximity to the coast, propensity for heavy rainfall and storm surge, prior flood claims and the cost to rebuild – all factors that will inevitably subject coastal communities like Monroe County already challenged by high housing costs to even higher flood insurance premiums; and

**WHEREAS**, NFIP policy holders are already subject to steep annual premium increases of up to 18% for primary homeowners and 25% for commercial and repetitive loss properties that were set in law in 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the Monroe County Commission believes that these rate caps are steep, unaffordable and unsustainable for NFIP policy holders and is deeply concerned that Risk Rating 2.0 will exacerbate pressure on flood insurance premiums; and

**WHEREAS**, the Monroe County Commission believes a lower annual increase cap will provide a more gradual and reasonable glide path of increases, and therefore greater economic stability and fairness; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 2, 2021, the National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization and Reform Act (“NFIP-RE”) was introduced in the United States Senate, and on November 15, 2021 companion bill HR 5812, was introduced in the United States House of Representatives; and

**WHEREAS**, this legislation will strengthen the NFIP, protect policy holders, and boost flood risk mitigation by doing the following:

- Reauthorizing NFIP for the next five years,
- Capping annual premium increases to 9% (on all properties irrespective of use),
- Boosting the amount for Increased Cost of Compliance (to encourage individual property mitigation efforts),
- Redirecting the program’s interest payment on the debt to community-wide mitigation programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Monroe County Commission strongly urges Congress to pass this legislation that will finally provide long-term NFIP reauthorization legislation, with an affordable and sustainable glide path for premium increases to guard against impacts from Risk Rating 2.0, and that encouraging meaningful mitigation efforts and continued responsible flood plain management; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA:**

1. The above recitals are hereby incorporated into this resolution as restated herein constitute the legislative findings and intent of the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida.
2. The Clerk for this Board shall furnish copies of this resolution via email and regular mail to:
  - U.S. Senator Marco Rubio
  - U.S. Senator Rick Scott
  - U.S. Representative Carlos Gimenez, District 26
  - U.S. Representative Maxine Walters, House Financial Services Committee Chair

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, at a regular meeting of said Board held on the 21st day of January 2022.

Mayor David Rice	<u>Yes</u>
Mayor Pro Tem Craig Cates	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Michelle Coldiron	<u>Yes</u>
District 3 Commissioner, vacant	<u>Vacant</u>
Commissioner Holly Merrill Raschein	<u>Yes</u>



Attest: Kevin Madok, Clerk

By: *Kimberly Starnes*  
As Deputy Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: *DR Rice*  
Mayor David Rice

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY  
Robert B. Shillinger, Monroe County Attorney

Robert B. Shillinger

Digitally signed by Robert B. Shillinger  
DN: cn=Robert B. Shillinger, o=Monroe County  
BOCC, ou=Monroe County Attorney,  
email=shillinger-bob@monroecounty-fl.gov, c=US  
Date: 2022.01.14 14:15:48 -05'00'

FILED FOR RECORD  
2022 JAN 28 PM 1:21  
CLERK CIR. CT.  
MONROE COUNTY, FL



## Kevin Madok, CPA

Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

January 28, 2022

Honorable U.S. Senator Marco Rubio  
7400 SW 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 270  
Miami FL 33173

Honorable Senator Rubio,

Enclosed is a copy of Resolution No. 026-2022 urging reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program that include protection from the potential increases to flood insurance premiums as a result of the implementation of Risk Rating 2.0 by limiting annual increases to flood insurance premiums to no more than 10% per year, and supporting federal legislation recently introduced in Congress that include these reforms.

Also enclosed is a copy of Resolution No. 027-2022 supporting passage of the federal Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act that will provide additional funding to Monroe's Veterans Affairs Department that serves and supports the County's veterans and their families.

These Resolutions were adopted by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners at a regular meeting, held in formal session, on January 21, 2022. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (305) 292-3550.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Madok, CPA, Clerk of the  
Circuit Court and ex-officio to the  
Monroe County Board of County  
Commissioners

*By: Pamela G. Hancock, D.C.*

cc: Legislative Affairs  
County Attorney  
File

KEY WEST  
500 Whitehead Street  
Key West, Florida 33040  
305-294-4641

MARATHON  
3117 Overseas Highway  
Marathon, Florida 33050  
305-289-6027

PLANTATION KEY  
88820 Overseas Highway  
Plantation Key, Florida 33070  
305-852-7145

PK/ROTH BUILDING  
50 High Point Road  
Plantation Key, Florida 33070  
305-852-7145



**Kevin Madok, CPA**

Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

January 28, 2022

Honorable U.S. Senator Rick Scott  
111 N Adams Street, Suite 208  
Tallahassee FL 32301

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**Kevin Madok, CPA**

Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

January 28, 2022

Honorable U.S. Representative Carlos Gimenez  
14221 SW 120<sup>th</sup> Street #115  
Miami FL 33186

Honorable Representative Gimenez,

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January 28, 2022

Honorable U.S. Representative Maxine Walters  
2851 W 120<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite H  
Hawthorne CA 90250

Honorable Representative Walters,

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