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September 24, 2024

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Chair  
Committee on Science, Space and Technology  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Science, Space and Technology  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Lofgren,

I am writing on behalf of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) to express our strong support for H.R. 9723, National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2024. The National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (NWIRP) provides the necessary research to better understand the impact of wind hazards on the built environment and works to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

NWIRP research is widely shared and informs the development of consensus-based standards, such as [ASCE-7 Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures \(ASCE/SEI 7-22\)](#). Updated research on wind speeds and impacts is critical to ensuring our building standards are current and strengthen the resilience of the built environment.

Founded in 1852, ASCE is the country's oldest civil engineering organization. Representing more than 160,000 civil engineers from private practice, government, industry, and academia, it is ASCE's objective to advance the science and profession of engineering. ASCE leads hazards mitigation efforts aimed at protecting public health, safety, and welfare and develops and maintains standards, supports the funding of professional guideline-writing organizations, and works with governments at all levels to assist in mitigating the impacts of natural and human induced hazards. ASCE, working with Congress and fellow stakeholders, was instrumental in the creation of NWIRT and has long championed this critical program.

Created by Congress in 2004, NWIRP coordinates windstorm related research activities at the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Science Foundation (NSF), and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). NWIRP has made strides in increasing the understanding of the impact of wind on structures. This includes significant improvements in hurricane forecasts and increased tornado warning times; advancements in the science of wind mapping to inform engineering-based design standards; improved coordination practices and research support for post windstorm investigations; and implementation of post windstorm research-based recommendations into codes, standards, and practices. However, despite the best efforts of the agencies involved, NWIRP has not received the funding needed to reach its potential.

We would be remiss if we did not take this opportunity to urge the Committee to also expedite reauthorization of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP). Like NWIRP, NEHRP is a cost-effective and well-run program that has a long history of protecting life and property. NEHRP's authorization has also expired, and it is important to preserve this critical source for hundreds of new technologies, maps, design techniques, and standards that are used by design professionals every day to mitigate hazards and risks of earthquakes.

Thank you for your leadership on these important issues. ASCE stands ready to provide any assistance that it can. For further information, please contact Martin Hight, ASCE's Senior Manager of Government Relations at [mhight@asce.org](mailto:mhight@asce.org) or 202-789-7843.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Caroline Sevier".

Caroline Sevier  
Managing Director, Government Relations and Infrastructure Initiatives