



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

October 7, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jeffries:

We are approaching one week of the government shutdown, and the resulting lapse in National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) operations is already causing significant, measurable consequences for families, homeowners, and local economies across eastern North Carolina. On behalf of North Carolina's First Congressional District, I urge your commitment to restoring the NFIP.

The NFIP is the nation's largest residential flood-insurance program, providing over \$1.3 trillion in coverage to 4.7 million policyholders nationwide. In North Carolina's First District, an estimated 11,614 NFIP policies are in force, representing roughly \$3.22 billion in insured value. Many of the communities across eastern North Carolina are rural and lower income, relying almost entirely on NFIP coverage because private flood insurance is either unavailable or unaffordable.

Because the government remains shut down, FEMA's authority to issue and renew NFIP policies expired at midnight on September 30. While existing policies remain active, FEMA cannot issue new or renewal flood-insurance policies, placing property transactions and families at immediate risk.

The impact on North Carolina's First District is tangible:

- Lenders are unable to close federally backed mortgages (FHA, VA, USDA) for homes in FEMA-designated flood zones, resulting in growing delays and uncertainty for families across eastern North Carolina.
- Title companies and underwriters are beginning to pause transactions in flood-prone areas due to FEMA's inability to issue or renew NFIP policies.
- Homebuyers and sellers are at risk of losing deposits and locked-in interest rates, while policyholders whose coverage lapses during this shutdown face heightened risk in the heart of hurricane season.

- Real estate professionals warn that each week this lapse continues could further stall housing activity and slow related sectors, from appraisers and surveyors to contractors and small businesses that depend on home sales.

For instance, a home sale in Pasquotank County's Zone AE flood area cannot close if the lender requires flood coverage and NFIP cannot issue a policy. The buyer's financing collapses, the seller's next purchase may fail, and the effects ripple throughout the community.

Flooding is the most common and costly natural disaster in the United States, and eastern North Carolina has experienced numerous devastating events—from hurricanes to recurring inland storms. Congress must act now to reopen the government, restore NFIP authority, and pursue a long-term reauthorization that protects rural and coastal families who simply cannot afford another day of uncertainty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. G. Davis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress