**RESILIENCY WEEK 2019 BEGINS SEPT. [DATE]**

*Next Steps Toward Resiliency Following Enactment of Disaster Recovery Reform Act*

As part of a campaign aimed to build stronger communities in preparation for natural disasters, the [STATE NAME] Legislature has passed a resolution declaring September [DATE] as Resiliency Week.

“Recognizing Resiliency Week this September is the first step in raising awareness about the continuing need to plan for future disasters by instituting a mitigation strategy before disasters strike,” [NAME, TITLE] says. “In bringing attention to construction standards and increased mitigation here in [STATE], and across the nation, we have an opportunity to protect our communities and literally save lives.”

Since 1980, more than 250 natural disasters have cost the country more than $1 trillion and have increased drastically in frequency and severity in recent years. Building resiliently can have an enormous impact on whether a home can withstand even the most extreme natural disasters.

The Disaster Recovery Reform Act, signed into federal law in 2018, will arm states and communities with new resources to mitigate against the risk of flooding, wind damage, wildfires, and other catastrophic events.

“We will be looking to Federal Emergency Management Agency to help us access funding and resources that will assist citizens of [STATE] to be better prepared for future disasters,” [NAME] continued.

A 2018 National Institute of Building Sciences study found every $1 spent in pre-disaster hazard mitigation saves $11 in future losses; but the federal government has spent far more in the wake of a disaster than on protecting communities from future losses. By establishing Resiliency Week, [STATE NAME] encourages disaster preparedness with the dual purpose of saving state funds and increasing access to federal funds in the wake of disasters.

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