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COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4208

December 1, 2014

The Honorable John Boehner Speaker of the House of Representatives H-232, United States Capitol Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Kevin McCarthy House Majority Leader H-107, United States Capitol Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and Leader McCarthy:

We write to express our support for reauthorizing the *Terrorism Risk Insurance Act* (TRIA), and to respectfully urge you to schedule action on a multi-year extension immediately after the House returns from the November elections. We further urge you not to consider a short-term extension, as this would only prolong the uncertainty that is already harming our economy.

After the tragedy of 9/11, our economy was paralyzed because businesses could not obtain terrorism insurance, yet lenders required it. The enactment of TRIA in 2002 addressed this issue in the event of catastrophic terrorist attacks by recoupment of federal payments over time so the taxpayer is made whole. Terrorism remains an unpredictable threat with potentially catastrophic losses, and while private market capacity for terrorism insurance has grown, there is little evidence that the private market can completely absorb the astronomical costs of an act of terrorism.

As you know, the House Financial Services Committee approved H.R. 4871, the *TRIA Reform Act of 2014*, in June that provides for a five-year reauthorization and is now pending floor consideration. The Senate approved a seven-year TRIA extension bill in July on a vote of 93-4.

The fact that TRIA has not yet been reauthorized is already hurting the economy. Businesses with terrorism coverage are being told that their coverage will end if Congress fails to act, causing the sort of uncertainty that hurts economic growth. A short-term extension of TRIA would only prolong this problem. The time is now to act on a multi-year reauthorization of TRIA.

Sincerely,

Stephen Fincher

Member of Congress

Peter T. King

Member of Congress



Jon Rylnyan Member of Congress	
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