



## NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*

June 6, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell Minority  
Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Bruce W. Starr**  
*Senator  
Oregon  
President, NCSL*

**Thomas W. Wright**  
*Chief of Staff to Speaker  
Alaska  
Staff Chair, NCSL*

**William T. Pound**  
*Executive Director*

### **Re: NCSL Support of the Long-Term Extension of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act**

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell, Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), we write to express our support for a long-term extension of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) of 2002. Furthermore, we commend the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs for taking the first steps to advance the reauthorization of TRIA, presently set to expire at the conclusion of 2014, by unanimously adopting a seven year extension.

Unfortunately, the United States continues to be engaged in a global ongoing war against terrorism, and sadly the threats of future attacks inside the country remain. Prospective attacks could include the use of unconventional (nuclear, biological, chemical or radiological) weapons that could result in a large number of casualties or could involve attacks such as cyber-terrorism that would impact businesses and critical infrastructure across the nation. As you know, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program, created through the enactment of TRIA in 2002 and extended in 2005 and 2007, has allowed for a viable and stable terrorism risk insurance market.

State policymakers are fully aware that failure to extend TRIA would likely result in the inability of insurers to offer widespread coverage for future catastrophes resulting from terrorism or would likely create capacity concerns where terrorism coverage must be provided. At NCSL's 2013 Legislative Summit in Atlanta, Georgia, state legislators overwhelmingly adopted a resolution supporting a long-term extension. In fact, NCSL has been a vocal supporter of TRIA in the past supporting the enactment in 2002 and subsequent extensions in 2005 and 2007. We are encouraged by the recent movement to advance reauthorization in the Senate Banking Committee and urge the Senate and House of Representatives to act likewise.

We appreciate the opportunity to express the views of our colleagues across the country on this topic. If you have any questions regarding the concerns of state legislatures or would like to discuss the issue further, please contact James Ward ([james.ward@ncsl.org](mailto:james.ward@ncsl.org); 202-624-8683) in NCSL's Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

Senator Bruce Starr  
Oregon Senate  
NCSL President

Senator Debbie Smith  
Nevada Senate  
NCSL President-Elect

cc: Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives

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