

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable David Richardson
Acting Administrator, Federal
Emergency Management Agency
Washington, DC 20472

RE: Support for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program

Dear Secretary Noem and Acting Administrator Richardson,

As representatives of the built environment, we write collectively to express our strong support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. Together, we are responsible for shaping the physical fabric of our communities—homes, schools, public buildings, transportation networks, and critical infrastructure. We understand deeply that resilience must be intentionally designed and built into these systems. "Resilience design strategies are critical to incorporate in our cities and communities today so that we can provide security, health, and wellness for all."¹

The BRIC program is a vital step in preparing communities across the nation to meet the challenges of increasing natural hazard events and an aging-built environment. By prioritizing pre-disaster mitigation, BRIC helps save lives, reduce economic losses, and accelerate recovery. It also fosters innovation, community engagement, and cross-sector collaboration—all essential to creating safer and more resilient communities. Resilience and hazard mitigation are smart investments. A recent study by the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) found that for every dollar the federal government invests in communities to build resilience, our communities reap a minimum of \$6 in returns on these investments.² Additionally, the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) has found that post-hurricane mortgage delinquency rates decrease by about 50 percent "in homes built to modern building codes" that include hazard mitigation requirements,³ helping protect the community's tax base and economic stability while it recovers.

As professionals committed to the public's health, safety, and welfare, we recognize the necessity of designing infrastructure that not only withstands disaster but supports recovery and adaptation. BRIC's focus on forward-thinking design, nature-based solutions, and social equity is especially critical in ensuring that investments in resilience reach historically underserved and disproportionately affected populations.

¹ https://www.aia.org/sites/default/files/2024-12/2023_Resilience_Design_Toolkit_HKS_AIA_FINAL.pdf

² https://www.nibs.org/files/pdfs/ms_v4_overview.pdf

³ <https://ibhs.org/ibhs-news-releases/new-ibhs-corelogic-study-shows-modern-building-codes-cut-post-hurricane-mortgage-delinquency-rates-in-half/>

We applaud FEMA for its previous recognition of the importance of resilient infrastructure and for advancing programs that support proactive, not reactive, approaches to risk reduction. We also call for the continuation of the BRIC program, ensuring that local governments and design professionals have the resources and technical support needed to make long-lasting, community-driven improvements.

The built environment community stand united in support of BRIC and FEMA's mission. Together, we are committed to designing and delivering solutions that protect people, preserve resources, and build a more resilient future.

Sincerely,

Air Barrier Association of America
American Institute of Architects (AIA)
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)
American Society of Interior Designers (ASID)
American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)
Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC)
BOMA International
Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE)
Community Association Institute
National Institute of Building Sciences
National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)
Smart Home America