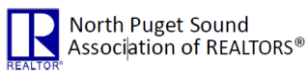




2013 Legislative Priorities

The Skagit Business Alliance encourages the Washington State Legislature to be outcome-driven, and pursue policies that encourage economic growth and job creation in Skagit County.



Dear Congressman Rick Larsen,

We are writing to you to express our concerns over the drastic increases in flood premiums as a result of recent changes to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). It has come to our attention that provisions included in the Bigger-Waters Act of 2012 will make flood insurance unaffordable for many working Americans who have built to code and followed the law every step of the way. As the unified voice of the business community in Skagit County we strongly encourage you to cosponsor S.1610/H.R. 3370, the Homeowner Flood Insurance Act of 2013. This legislation would delay flood insurance rate increases until Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) completes the congressionally mandated study of flood insurance rate affordability. The Agency should not be allowed to continue picking and choosing which parts of a law it will implement and when. The affordability study is necessary and imperative to understand the full scope of implementation's impact.

We support a fully authorized, sustainable and fiscally responsible NFIP. However it must be balanced with protections for both business and homeowners. Let's use common sense and wait to implement these rates until the rate affordability study is complete!

Sincerely,

Jason M. Easton

Chairman, Skagit Business Alliance