

September 6, 2007

Dear Representative:

The Coalition to Insure Against Terrorism (CIAT), a broad-based coalition of business insurance policyholders representing a significant segment of the nation's GDP, strongly supports H.R.2761, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Revision and Extension Act (TRIREA) of 2007, that would extend and improve the Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act (TRIEA).

The current federal terrorism risk insurance program has been a tremendous success. TRIEA has helped keep the economy going in the face of continued terrorist threats by allowing businesses across America to secure this commercially necessary product, saving countless jobs in the process. Moreover, it serves as an important tool to minimize the severe economic disruption that almost certainly will occur from a future terrorist attack.

H.R. 2761 contains a number of key provisions of importance to America's businesses. First, the program's term would be extended to fifteen years. Such an extension affords policyholders with the certainty necessary for long-term projects and allows economic activity to move forward.

Second, H.R.2761 would give businesses an important new option to purchase insurance for catastrophic non-conventional terrorism risks - the types of risks our government warns us about repeatedly - by making available to policyholders insurance against weapons of mass destruction - so-called NBCR risks - under "same terms and conditions" as "conventional" risks.

Third, this legislation would eliminate the distinction between foreign and domestic acts. As the London bombings and the foiled Kennedy Airport plot demonstrate, we must be prepared for "home-grown" terrorism as well as threats from abroad.

Fourth, H.R.2761 would set the program's trigger at the 2006 level which will encourage smaller insurers, currently unable to participate in the program, to return to the terrorism risk insurance marketplace, thereby providing policyholders with a wider choice of insurance options.

Extending TRIEA is a vital part of our nation's economic preparedness against terrorism, as well as an essential element of our nation's economic security. Equally important, having a federal insurance backstop in place in advance allows for the timely and orderly payout of claims to the victims of terrorism after an attack, thereby reducing or eliminating ultimate taxpayer exposure.

To this end, CIAT respectfully requests that you vote for HR.2761, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Revision and Extension Act.

Sincerely,

The Coalition to Insure Against Terrorism

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The Coalition to Insure Against Terrorism represents a wide range of businesses and other organizations throughout the transportation, real estate, manufacturing, construction, entertainment and retail sectors. CIAT speaks for business insurance policyholders as part of an ongoing effort to ensure that terrorism coverage is both available and affordable. Visit our Web site at www.insureagainstterrorism.org.