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STATE OF MARYLAND
MARYLAND INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION
525 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, Maryland 21202-2272

January 14, 2005

Dear Fellow Marylander,

I know that some of you who sustained damage as a result of Hurricane Isabel have ongoing concerns regarding the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the amount that you received as payment on your claim. As you are aware, despite the fact the Maryland Insurance Administration lacks jurisdiction over the federal flood program, the MIA initiated a series of measures designed to assist those affected by Isabel with their respective claims. In addition, we advocated to the NFIP on your behalf, worked with many of you throughout the re-evaluation process, and made recommendations to the NFIP and federal officials regarding changes I believe are necessary to better serve you.

One of the methods many of those affected by Isabel are pursuing to resolve problems with the NFIP is by contacting your federal elected representatives, who have direct oversight and jurisdiction over the federal flood program. At this point, I would like to advise you of another available option, which is participation in a class action lawsuit.

It is my understanding that the timeframe in which to join the class action litigation *Howell et al v. State Farm Insurance Companies et al* (Case number 1:04-ev-01494-BEL) comes to a close within the next few weeks. Thus, if you are interested in joining the lawsuit you need to act soon. You can do this by contacting Andrew N. Friedman, lead Plaintiffs Attorney, at Cohen, Milstein, Hausfield, and Toll, PLLC at 1-202-408-4600.

In addition to the lawsuit, a demand letter on behalf of 140 individuals and families from seven states has been issued by the law firm of Freeman and Freeman of Rockville, MD. The goal of this letter is to help those affected by Isabel to recover benefits they believe are owed under their national flood insurance policies. Those who wish to be included in the demand letter may register online at www.femainfo.us/demand. Affected citizens without internet access are advised to provide their contact and carrier information to a Maryland Insurance Administration representative at 410-468-2000. The MIA will then forward the information to the law firm.

The purpose of my correspondence is not to advise you as to whether you should join the class action suit or register as part of the demand letter. Doing either is a decision you must make based upon your particular circumstances. I just wanted to take this opportunity to advise you of all available options in order that you may better make an informed decision.

Thank you for your time and attention. I commend those citizens who have tirelessly worked to ensure fair resolutions to these Isabel related concerns and wish you the best in resolving any outstanding concerns you may have regarding your flood insurance claim. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Maryland Insurance Administration, 410-468-2000.

Sincerely,



Alfred W. Redmer, Jr.
Maryland Insurance Commissioner