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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6075

August 6, 2024

Steven Seitz
Director
Federal Insurance Office
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Director Seitz:

The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs (BHUA) seeks to better understand the state of the home insurance market, especially the factors creating market instability and driving up home insurance premiums for far too many Americans. Historic rate increases; frequent, unanticipated, and unprovoked notices of non-renewal; and recent public decisions by insurers to exit entire markets are harming homeowners, communities, and the general public.

As you know, the state of the home insurance market remains challenging for consumers across the country. Long-time insurance customers now find their policies dropped, coverages capped, face dramatic premium increases beyond many consumers' ability to pay, or suffer from limited or no availability of coverage as insurers exit states. I have heard of Ohioans and homeowners around the country experiencing rising home insurance rates, shrinking coverage, and surprise nonrenewals. In 2023, home insurance rates jumped double digits nationally, with some states experiencing rate hikes of more than 20 percent.¹ As customers face rising insurance rates, these additional costs make housing less affordable for homeowners and renters and make it more difficult to maintain existing housing stock and develop new housing supply. Policymakers need more information to better understand the home insurance situation and the factors creating instability in the marketplace.

For these reasons, I request a comprehensive analysis of the factors the Federal Insurance Office views as contributing to the current insurance market crisis.

¹ *Homeowners Insurance Costs Are Going Through The Roof. Here's Why, and What you Can Do About It*, CBS News, June 12, 2024 (<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/homeowners-insurance-cost-rising-climate-change/>).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to his matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my staff at (202) 224-7391.

Sincerely,

Sherrod Brown

Sherrod Brown

Chairman

Senate Committee on Banking,
Housing, and Urban Affairs