



Florida House of Representatives

Will Weatherford

Representative, District 61

Redistricting Committee, Chair

Friday, October 5, 2012

Carlos Lacasa, Chair
Citizens Property Insurance Corporation
2312 Killearn Center Boulevard
Building A
Tallahassee, Florida 32309

Dear Chairman Lacasa:

As the incoming Speaker of the House of Representatives, I want to thank you for the work you and the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation are doing to identify meaningful solutions to the problems associated with potential assessments on all property and casualty policyholders in Florida. I believe it is our shared goal to reduce the size of Citizens Property Insurance Corporation and promote a competitive private sector market that provides consumers high quality and reliable insurance products at affordable prices.

While the Board's diligence and initiative are greatly appreciated, I have concerns regarding the Surplus Note Depopulation Program tentatively approved by the Board on Friday, September 7, 2012. My concerns involve serious questions regarding the process by which the proposed program was approved, the sufficiency of the information and analysis on which the approval was based, and uncertainties regarding the Board's legal authority to adopt and implement the program.

The timing of the Board's actions and the anticipated December 2012 implementation date have the unfortunate consequence of preventing the Legislature from exercising our constitutional duty to establish and oversee the implementation of state policy in an area that affects the well-being of so many Floridians.

I am concerned that the Board's aggressive timeline will result in the program's implementation before the two chambers of the Legislature complete hearings on this important matter of state policy.

In light of the concerns outlined above, as well as questions raised by the Office of the Insurance Consumer Advocate and other parties, I request the Board delay final approval and implementation of the proposed Surplus Note Depopulation Program until after the Legislature conducts appropriate committee hearings to review the merits of the proposal and the Board's legal authority to implement it.

Please be assured, this letter is not intended to place a chilling effect on efforts to achieve our shared goals; rather, it is an indication of my commitment to ensuring that good ideas are identified and fully analyzed through a public and transparent process. Moreover, actions not contemplated by the Legislature that may be outside the Board's legal authority are subject to legal challenge and such unnecessary litigation could result in significant long-term uncertainty for the policyholders across Florida to whom we are all accountable.

I look forward to hearing from you and working together to accomplish good public policy for the benefit of all Floridians.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Will Weatherford', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Will Weatherford
Speaker-designate
Florida House of Representatives