

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1309**  
**OFFERED BY MRS. BIGGERT OF ILLINOIS**

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

**1 SEC. 16. STUDY ON GRADUATED RISK.**

2 (a) STUDY.— The National Academy of Sciences  
3 shall conduct a study exploring methods for understanding  
4 graduated risk behind levees and the associated land de-  
5 velopment, insurance, and risk communication dimensions,  
6 which shall—

7 (1) research, review, and recommend current  
8 best practices for estimating direct annualized flood  
9 losses behind levees for residential and commercial  
10 structures;

11 (2) rank such practices based on their best  
12 value, balancing cost, scientific integrity, and the in-  
13 herent uncertainties associated with all aspects of  
14 the loss estimate, including geotechnical engineering,  
15 flood frequency estimates, economic value, and direct  
16 damages;

17 (3) research, review, and identify current best  
18 floodplain management and land use practices be-  
19 hind levees that effectively balance social, economic,

1 and environmental considerations as part of an over-  
2 all flood risk management strategy;

3 (4) identify examples where such practices have  
4 proven effective and recommend methods and proc-  
5 esses by which they could be applied more broadly  
6 across the United States, given the variety of dif-  
7 ferent flood risks, State and local legal frameworks,  
8 and evolving judicial opinions;

9 (5) research, review, and identify a variety of  
10 flood insurance pricing options for flood hazards be-  
11 hind levees which are actuarially sound and based on  
12 the flood risk data developed using the top three  
13 best value approaches identified pursuant to para-  
14 graph (1);

15 (6) evaluate and recommend methods to reduce  
16 insurance costs through creative arrangements be-  
17 tween insureds and insurers while keeping a clear  
18 accounting of how much financial risk is being borne  
19 by various parties such that the entire risk is ac-  
20 counted for, including establishment of explicit limits  
21 on disaster aid or other assistance in the event of a  
22 flood; and

23 (7) taking into consideration the recommenda-  
24 tions pursuant to paragraphs (1) through (3), rec-  
25 ommend approaches to communicating the associ-

1       ated risks to community officials, homeowners, and  
2       other residents.

3       (b) REPORT.—Not later than the expiration of the  
4 12-month period beginning on the date of the enactment  
5 of this Act, the National Academy of Sciences shall submit  
6 a report to the Committees on Financial Services and  
7 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-  
8 resentatives and the Committees on Banking, Housing,  
9 and Urban Affairs and Commerce, Science and Transpor-  
10 tation of the Senate on the study under subsection (a) in-  
11 cluding the information and recommendations required  
12 under such subsection.

