\* \* \* \* SAMPLE LETTER – SUPPORT FOR H.R. 5870 \* \* \* \*

DATE

The Honorable Adam Schiff

United States Congress

2411 Rayburn HOB

Washington D.C. 20515

**RE: Support for the Disaster Declaration Improvement Act (H.R. 5870)**

Dear Congressman Schiff:

The city/town of YOUR CITY/TOWN is pleased to inform you of our support for H.R. 5870, the Disaster Declaration Improvement Act. This measure gives necessary consideration to our most populous states when federal assistance is sought to restore critical infrastructure and essential services following a disaster.

All disasters are local events, and a central purpose of city government is to protect the safety and well-being of its residents. Unfortunately, the current methodology applied by the Federal

Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in their review of federal assistance requests places states with large populations, such as California, at a disadvantage. The windstorms that struck southern California communities in the winter of 2011 is a prime example of why change is needed. Despite the extensive and costly damage, our state did not qualify for federal relief while the same windstorm event in our neighboring states would have easily qualified. This is primarily because one of the criteria used in FEMA’s request review process establishes a minimum dollar threshold for damages based on statewide population.

[Briefly describe the impacts of recent disasters in your city/town that would have been helped by the Disaster Declaration Improvement Act, if appropriate]

The Disaster Declaration Improvement Act offers alternative criteria for the minimum damage threshold levels in our most populous states, thereby providing more consistent consideration between all states in the event they suffer a natural or man-made disaster. For the aforementioned reasons we are pleased to support this important measure and thank you for your leadership in this area.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME

YOUR TITLE

Cc: Your Congress member

 Your League Regional Manager

 Dorothy Holzem, League of California Cities, (916) 658-8240 fax