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Subcommittee on Housing and Community Development

Hearing on

“A look at the national Flood Insurance Program: Is Ohio Ready for a Flood”

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New Philadelphia, Ohio

I will begin my story about September 17, 2004, the day my life changed. I received a phone call around 1:00 pm telling me if I didn't leave work I may not get home.

She told me water was coming up in Brookside and that Rt 40 at Blaine may close.

I cancelled my remaining appt and went home. As I drove thru the streets of Wheeling W Va they were like small lakes. When I got to Bridgeport Oh I drove thru water – mud- debris. I finally made it home and there was water on the streets about 1 and 1/2 feet.

As I drove up to my house my next door neighbor Linda Bumbico was leaving. She said she couldn't bear to stay and watch her house get flooded. At that time my thoughts were it will not get in the houses, as you know, I was wrong. I went in the house and changed from my work clothes, I put on a pair of shorts and t-shirt. As I came out of my bedroom I saw Flo Caprita walking thru waist hi water, I opened my front door and my steps started to float away.

I tied rope to the railing and tied it to my front door knob. By then I had one more step to go before the water would be on my deck out back. Just as I came into the kitchen the water must have gotten to the furnace and water came blowing out my register, it had turned on aux. heat. I hit the main in the circuit breaker, I didn't want to get electrocuted. I had to tippy toe out, water was up to my chin. I left with a few clothes in a see thru container, and my cat. The rest is history!

The water was up in Lansing for maybe 12 – 14 hours.

My house, furniture, appliances, clothes and most of all my tapes and pictures. family albums all lost. Pictures of my children and tapes of my grandchildren gone forever. I was avid collector of diamonds – they were about \$60,000 - \$100,000. - all were gone.

I do not believe we would have been in a flood had Rt 40 not caved in and dammed up and back flushed the creek water.

I was born and raised in Bel. Ct. I can't remember Lansing ever being in a flood.

When we purchased the land in Lansing I was never told I was in a flood plain. My bank never told me I needed flood ins. All they said was homeowners ins. was needed. Why would a bank give all that money for a home and not do their homework?

I understand I probably would not get fair value for what I lost, but I think I would be in better shape than I am now. If only someone would have said get flood ins. I now have flood ins, but I don't have a house.

I will tell you my story of what is happening in my life after the flood, if you are interested in how one person is trying to survive, I would be glad to share. Also, I now have flood ins. on property that has been torn down.