

Appendix: Semi-Structured Interview Guide

1. ROLE IN POLICY PROCESS

- (a) How were you/your organization involved in the policy process about reforming flood insurance? When did you engage in the policymaking process, how, and for how long? What was your position on the bill, and did that position change over time?

2. SETTING THE AGENDA

- (a) How did flood insurance reform get onto the Congressional agenda, and what was your role in putting it there?
- (b) How was this issue discussed with relation to other issues, and how did it become a topic of debate?

3. DEFINING THE PROBLEM

- (a) Why you/your organization interested in flood insurance reform?
- (b) What do you/your organization perceive as the goal and problem with flood insurance?
- (c) What were the competing definitions of the problem? (cost to taxpayers, environmental damage, reducing vulnerability, subsidizing wealthy/poor, repeat damages, perverse incentives?)
- (d) Why is your constituency/client group interested (or not interested) in flood insurance reform?
- (e) Who were the main spokespersons for the problem as it came to be defined in Congress? Who did you see as the most effective spokespersons and why?

4. DEFINING THE SOLUTION

- (a) What do you see as the preferred solution for the problem discussed above? How did you try to advance that solution, and how did you succeed or fail at advancing your position?
- (b) Who were the main supporters and opponents of your preferred solution and the solutions contained in Biggert-Waters, and why?
- (c) What advantages and disadvantages were discussed in association with each of the proposed solutions? What information was emphasized? Why do you think people supported the solutions contained in Biggert-Waters?
- (d) How has the debate changed after passage of the law? How have problem definition and evaluation of alternatives changed, and why?

5. STRATEGIES USED

- (a) Information—How did you try to convince decision-makers of your position? Who did you try to convince, who did you succeed/fail at convincing, and why?
- (b) What strategies did the supporters of Biggert-Waters use to convince decision-makers of their position? What information did they emphasize?
- (c) Procedures—How and why did the proponents of the bill use procedural strategies to gain support for the bill (eg, by attaching the bill as a rider to a popular bill)?

6. OTHER INTERESTED GROUPS/DECISION-MAKERS

- (a) Who were the key decision-makers and organized interest groups involved in this debate, and how would you characterize their positions?