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UNH – HLS 799H Senior Thesis

Thesis Statement:

Congress needs to vote for a National Resiliency Act for natural disaster events that address mitigation and preparedness requirements for communities and infrastructure systems before they strike the United States.

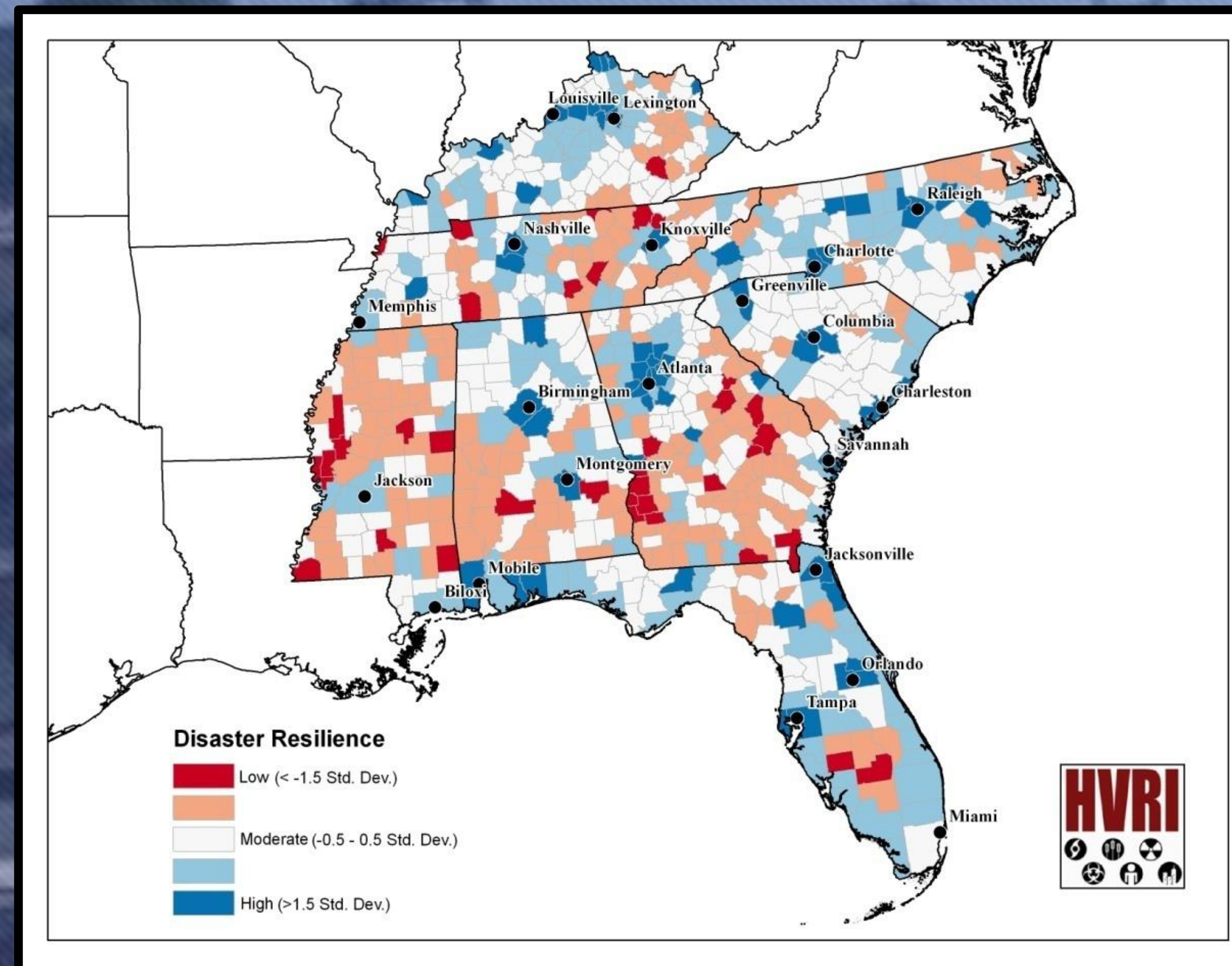
Narrative/Key Findings:

- Natural hazards have been an increasing wicked problem for the U.S. since 2000
- Statistically, extreme weather events have become more frequent and intense due to current trends in climate change
- Damage costs are skyrocketing more than ever before annually within the U.S.
- Urbanization and increasing mobile home production is fueling for more destruction
- Not enough is being done at the federal level to combat increased disaster risks
- There is no single US framework or statute that blueprints mitigation/preparedness practices to counteract natural hazards in effort to improve community resiliency

Recommendations:

1. Every state should be encouraged to incorporate up-to-date building codes (or better) for housing and infrastructure
2. EAS systems should be implemented across states, local communities, and municipalities
3. Communities that are unsustainable should plan for adequate emergency sheltering

Community Resilience - The ability (or toughness) of a community to prepare for anticipated natural hazards, adapt to changing conditions, and withstand/recover rapidly from disruptions



Baseline resiliency map of **FEMA Region 4** (2010): **Red counties** indicate who are less resilient for disaster events, and **blue counties** indicate who are more resilient for disaster events. This problem is a growing national security threat for maintaining both community and nationwide resiliency!



Results of “code-plus” building code standards being put to good use in the state of Florida after **Hurricane Michael** made landfall (2018), this is an example of a benchmark that congressional policymakers need to advise/recommend

A National Resiliency Act (or similar) needs to be proposed and passed into congressional policymaking NOW!

Communities are more vulnerable, which raises more risks, and creates more uncertainty.