U.S. Federal Climate Resiliency Policy: Is It Advancing or Retreating?

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Presentation Overview

The Good News
Enhancing Resilience & Investing in Mitigating Risk & Impacts
Recognizing Nature’s Role

The Bad News
Continued Advocacy Needed
Enhancing Resilience: Flood Risk Standard in Defense Authorization Bill

  - Assess flood risk
  - Report on efforts to consider alternative siting
  - If in floodplain, 2-ft (3-ft) base flood elevation required
  - Defines resiliency
Enhancing Resilience: Stafford Act Reauthorization

- PL 115-254
- Fire disasters now eligible for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- Forest management eligible
- Creates new program, National Public Infrastructure Predisaster Hazard Mitigation
  - Up to 6% of specified portions of disaster relief funds
  - Added to Disaster Relief Funds
  - Not subject to annual appropriations
- Other programs of note:
  - Title IX coastal resilience grant, $30M
  - Army Corps CAP, consider projects that enhance coastal resiliency and stream habitat, $66M

By reconnecting side channels, removing the levee back to more than a mile of the river, and installing log jams to increase complexity and shoreline protection, the Reach Floodplains by Design project dramatically reduce flood risk for Orting and surrounding communities. This project also improves habitat for salmon in the Puyallup river.
Enhancing Resilience: Infrastructure

- Transportation legislation advancing in Senate and House
- Investment in natural and nature-based along or along with grey infrastructure
- Ensure investments are resilient, taking into consideration climate impacts and extreme weather
Investments in Natural Infrastructure Enhances Resilience

- Water Resources Development Act 2016 & 2018
- Army Corps of Engineers – Engineering with Nature work
- FEMA – Predisaster Mitigation Grants, Stream Restoration
- FEMA – added value to recognize benefits of floodplains, open space in cost benefit methodology
Continued Advocacy Needed

• Attacks to climate science (diminishing yet still occurring)

• Federal flood risk standard

• Ensure full 6% is allocated to PDM funding, not overemphasis on grey infrastructure & natural infrastructure remains eligible
Most Critical is Advancing Federal Climate & Energy Policy

Bipartisan Legislation to Move the Market

Bipartisan Climate Conversation

Carbon Pricing

THE MARKET CHOICE ACT

27 PERCENT
Reduces greenhouse gas emissions by at least 27% by 2025.

THE MARKET CHOICE ACT
Creates funding for modern infrastructure by swapping gas tax for a price on carbon.
What’s driving success?

- Good science work informing policy
- Economic frame
- Diverse stakeholder support

625 Million US$
15% avg reduction

Thank you

Questions?

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