



ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, INC.

2809 Fish Hatchery Road Suite 204 Madison, Wisconsin 53713
608-274-0123 Fax: 608-274-0696 www.floods.org Email: asfpm@floods.org

Executive Director

Larry A. Larson, P.E., CFM

Deputy Director

George Riedel, CFM

March 31, 2009

Honorable James L. Oberstar
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Honorable John L. Mica
Ranking Minority Member
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Mica,

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) strongly supports the legislation you have introduced (H.R. 1746) to reauthorize the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant program for three years. We hope that the measure will be favorably reported by your Committee later this week and will be acted upon favorably by the full House of Representatives.

Our members are the state and local officials as well as expert consultants, planners and engineers who work daily with communities to help them develop and implement hazard mitigation plans. ASFPM has over 14,000 members and has chapters in 27 states. We are the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) partners in implementing flood loss reduction efforts and our state members run state programs and coordinate the National Flood Insurance Program in each state.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program is a key component of FEMA's mitigation toolbox. Recent studies have shown that investment in mitigation saves on average \$4 for every \$1 invested. Disaster mitigation is smart public policy that saves taxpayer money and reduces loss of life and property. The benefits of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant program (PDM) are enhanced by the local planning process involved in applying for the grants, which brings all sectors of the community into the plan development. Local officials and citizens consider their risks and develop solutions, thereby facilitating risk awareness and hazard mitigation planning. We have been advised that demand has far exceeded the funds available.

ASFPM strongly supports the allocations to each state and full nationwide competition for the remaining funds.

We urge the Congress to act favorably and expeditiously to pass H.R. 1746 and ensure the continued availability of pre-disaster hazard mitigation assistance to our nation's communities.

Sincerely,

Al Goodman, ASFPM Chair

Dedicated to reducing flood losses in the nation.

Chair

Al W. Goodman, Jr., CFM
State Floodplain Manager
Mississippi Emerg. Mgmt. Agency
601-933-6884
agoodman@mema.ms.gov

Vice Chair

Gregory Main, CFM
State Floodplain Manager
Indiana DNR
317-234-1107
gmain@dnr.in.gov

Secretary

Judy Watanabe, CFM
Mitigation Section Manager
Utah Div. of Homeland Sec.
801-538-3750
judywatanabe@utah.gov

Treasurer

William Nechamen, CFM
State Floodplain Manager
New York State DEC
518-402-8146
wsnecham@gw.dec.state.ny.us