

Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee

December 5, 2019

Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee

Dear Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Leahy,

The undersigned organizations, representing a diverse set of partners, stakeholders and interests, are writing to urge you to maintain appropriated funding of FEMA's Flood Hazard Mapping and Risk Analysis Program at the FY 2019 level of \$263 million and to support the current House recommendation of \$263 million for FY 2020.

While we appreciate that the Senate subcommittee recommendation includes more than the Administration's budget request, we note that the recommended amount would be \$115 million less than the Senate recommended and enacted levels for FY 2019. Given the escalating severity and frequency of both coastal and inland flood events and threats of more extreme weather, the Coalition asks that you prioritize mapping in order to better inform property owners and communities of the risk, guide development and reduce the significant costs in loss of life and property from future flood disasters.

Flooding is the most frequent and most costly form of natural disasters. Investment in accurate flood maps is foundational to our nation's efforts to reduce loss of life and property. As the Congress has acted to significantly increase funds for pre-disaster hazard mitigation in order to reduce flood losses and costs to taxpayers, it is essential the public have access to accurate and up-to-date information to make critical risk decisions. This enables communities, developers, lenders, insurers and property owners to build and locate more safely. Safer development means less disaster relief at taxpayer expense. Better risk information will lead to more personal as well as state and local investments in hazard mitigation projects, more protection through purchase of flood insurance and more wise decisions to guide development away from flood hazard areas.

Again, the flood mapping coalition urges support for the House bill's figure of \$263 million rather than the Senate bill's figure of \$148 million. Thank you for your consideration of our recommendation. We look forward to working with you and the Senate to continue to support this critical funding for the nation's flood risk maps.

Sincerely,

American Public Works Association  
American Property and Casualty Insurers Association  
American Society of Civil Engineers

Association of State Floodplain Managers  
Association of State Wetland Managers  
Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers  
Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America  
National Apartment Association  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies  
National Association of Home Builders  
National Association of REALTORS®  
National Flood Association  
National League of Cities  
National Society of Professional Surveyors  
U.S. Geospatial Executives Organization

Cc: Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Chairwoman, Homeland Security Subcommittee

Honorable Jon Tester  
Ranking Minority Member, Homeland Security Subcommittee