

Honorable Christopher S. Murphy
Chairman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington D.C. 20510

July 1, 2021

Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murphy and Ranking Member Capito,

The undersigned organizations strongly support a significant increase in funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood risk mapping program in FY 2022.

We support the mission and objectives of FEMA's flood mapping program and recognize the value it brings to the resilience of the nation. That said, limited funding has brought limited results. To date, FEMA has mapped less than one-third of the nation's stream and coastal miles and many updated maps do not meet the requirements of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (now in statute at 42 U.S.C. § 4101b). Based on its recently updated **Flood Mapping for the Nation** report, the Association of State Floodplain Managers recommends that a minimum of \$800 million annually is required to complete the statutory mandated nationwide mapping. Current funding levels of \$263 million annually is sufficient to maintain and update some current map inventories but would not support a needed expansion of map inventory or inclusion to address key tasks such as identifying future conditions or areas of residual risks behind flood control structures including levees and dams, as well as the mapping of the 500-year (0.2% annual chance) floodplain as required by statute and recommended by the Technical Mapping Advisory Council.

As Congress prepares to invest heavily in needed upgrades to the nation's infrastructure and as we cope with the increasingly urgent need to adapt climate risks, flood-related disaster costs to taxpayers continue to escalate dramatically. Looking back at the last two decades, the nation experienced more frequent and more severe storms producing historic rainfall and resulting in catastrophic flooding, such as in 2004, 2005, 2012, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2020. It is imperative that FEMA receives adequate appropriations to move expeditiously to map as much of the nation as possible, including the 500-year floodplain and future conditions.

We do recognize and very much appreciate that your Subcommittee and the Congress have provided important map funding increases over the budget requests of recent years. We know those increases reflect your understanding of the importance of FEMA's flood risk maps. Given the looming climate and flood risks on the horizon, we would encourage you to be bold and prioritize an increase in order to support critical national investments in additional mapping which will be needed to construct and reconstruct infrastructure and adapt to increasing flood and disaster-related cost increases. Our organizations stand ready to assist you in these efforts and appreciate the opportunity to share this recommendation.

Sincerely,

American Public Works Association
Association of State Floodplain Managers
Association of State Wetland Managers
Coastal States Organization
Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers
Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America
International Association of Emergency Managers
National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies
National Flood Association
National League of Cities
National Association of Professional
Insurance Agents
National Association of REALTORS®
National Society of Professional
Surveyors
Pew Charitable Trusts
U.S. Geospatial Executives Organization