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Floodplain Managers, Inc.*

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The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

March 31, 2010

Dear Senator Nelson,

I write to you today as the chief representative of the members of this Association, who serve your constituents in Florida in matters of flood hazard mitigation and protection of life and property, to urge your support to quickly and decisively reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program after your recess.

The FFMA consists of over 300 dedicated professionals throughout Florida, from both the public and private sectors, representing not only the State offices mandated with administration of the NFIP, but also the overwhelming majority of its political subdivisions. Since our inception, our mission is to educate, coordinate and improve the comprehensive management of floodplain and related water resources in Florida. Our status as the State chapter of the Association of State Floodplain Managers is testament to our mutual commitment.

I shall not dwell on the appearances of the measures taken during previous legislative sessions to twice temporarily continue the NFIP. Rather, I must emphasize the vital importance of the complete and long-term reauthorization of this program. In consideration, never forget that **well over one-third of the NFIP policies in force in this nation are effective within your State.**

After record snowfall this winter, projections indicate an increased risk of flooding for the entire eastern United States. As you read this correspondence, many areas are already experiencing flooding. Without question or debate, **the single, most effective flood mitigation measure afforded to the citizens of Florida is the availability of NFIP coverage.** The implications of failing to reauthorize the program promptly may prove to be a serious and profound impediment to the economic recovery of this nation.

I'm confident that you know the issues and the stakes involved. While our membership remains committed to the re-evaluation and reinstatement of the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a Cabinet level office, independent of the Department of Homeland Security and again allowed to support more effective mitigation efforts nationwide, that matter remains to be discussed and resolved another day. The task at hand now is encouraging your full and immediate support toward the commitment to your constituents to protect life and property and preserve the quality of their existence.

Our Officers and Board of Directors are, as always, at your disposal to address any questions you may have during your deliberation. Thank you for your attention.

Courteously,

Frank N. Skarvelis, CFM
Chairman

*I'm Involved ...
Are You?*

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