Resolution on Increased Stream Gaging for Flood Warning

WHEREAS: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service (NWS) is responsible for warning the public of potential flooding in the United States; and

WHEREAS: Effective flood warning to more than 4,000 locations in the Nation by the NWS requires real time river stage and stream flow data for updating and validating hydrologic forecast models; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is responsible for the collection and analysis of water data nationwide and operates more than 4,000 river gages required by the NWS to produce river flood forecasts; and

WHEREAS: More than 400 streamflow gages used in the NWS forecast network have been discontinued by the USGS because of level or decreased funding of USGS and its many State and local cooperators; and

WHEREAS: Losses of river gages available to the NWS forecasting network result in less accurate flood forecasts; and

WHEREAS: Fewer and less accurate flood forecasts and warnings will lead to increased flood losses to many flood prone communities; and

WHEREAS: The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) believes the availability of accurate flood forecasts through real-time data provided by river stage and stream flow gages are an essential element of community floodplain management programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Association of State Floodplain Managers supports NOAA, National Weather Service and the U.S. Geological Survey in their efforts to stop the deterioration of the nation’s streamflow gaging network and to restore the river gages that are critical to river flood forecasts. ASFPM supports increased Congressional appropriations for the USGS to restore and maintain the national streamflow gaging network and for NWS to support river stage and discharge stations and to enhance its capability for providing accurate flood forecasts for floodprone communities.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Upon Board adoption, this resolution be transmitted to the appropriate agencies and other decision makers in Washington, D.C.

APPROVAL 4/30/1997 ATTEST ____________________________
Date Board Secretary