Resolution in Support of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

WHEREAS, the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) is a national professional non-profit organization with a mission to mitigate the losses, costs, and human suffering caused by flooding and to promote wise use of the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains: and

WHEREAS, the President's FY2003 Budget requested Congress to eliminate the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP); further, Congress chose to retain HMGP while changing the formula from 15% of certain disaster costs to 7.5% of certain disaster costs in the fiscal year 2003; and

WHEREAS, the President's FY2004 Budget again proposes elimination of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP); and

WHEREAS, trends in flood damages continue to increase as documented in the ASFPM's National Flood Programs in Review 2000, with national damages now averaging near $6 Billion annually; and

WHEREAS, post-disaster funding has proven to be a very effective way to achieve mitigation and reduce flood damages, and the post-disaster setting is the time when state and local dollars can be obtained that will leverage the federal dollars for mitigation and the time when property owners are most receptive to mitigation options; and

WHEREAS, HMGP projects are and have been a permanent solution to eliminating repetitive losses; and

WHEREAS, eliminating HMGP contradicts the incentives stated in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 supporting both pre and post-disaster mitigation;

THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Association of State Floodplain Managers does hereby resolve to urge Congress and the Administration to retain the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and restore its funding level to 15% of certain federal expenditures.

Approved by the Board of Directors May 10, 2003

Attested __________, Secretary