Resolution on Retaining the Identity of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

WHEREAS, the Homeland Security Act of 2002 requires the Department of Homeland Security to continue to carry out other functions of the agencies it will absorb; and

WHEREAS, FEMA comprises most employees in the Department of Homeland Security’s Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate; and

WHEREAS, FEMA is an effective, accepted, and widely recognized name not only in responding to disasters, but in the many facets of mitigation, including the NFIP, HMGP and FMA; and

WHEREAS, FEMA through its missions has distinguished itself as a service oriented organization bringing positive feedback to Congress and the Administration; and

WHEREAS, in time of crisis, the erosion or discontinuation of the use of the name “FEMA” will lead to confusion, loss of effectiveness in hazard mitigation, increased perceptions of bureaucracy, and increased anxiety about terrorism;

THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Association of State Floodplain Managers does hereby resolve to urge Congress and the Administration to retain the name Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the acronym FEMA, as an entity within the Department of Homeland Security, and continue its use with staff and regional offices, and on educational and outreach materials, website, and programs. We suggest the currently named Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate be re-named the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) within DHS.

Approved by the Board of Directors May 10, 2003

Attested _______________________, Secretary