Dear Chairman Lieberman:

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) strongly supports S. 3175 and the Senate’s clarification that the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program is competitive in nature. We believe that the bill language makes clear that the program is competitive, yet allows FEMA to administer the program in such a way to meet the original Congressional intent for each state to obtain a minimum level of funding. We also recommend that the Committee direct, in the report, that FEMA shall allow states to use a portion of that minimum funding to meet the needs of communities that are unable to compete because they need technical assistance to identify eligible projects and to develop competitive applications.

ASFPM supports the authorized amounts in the House bill of $250 million and urges the Senate to consider the same. As you are aware, the demand for this program far outstrips the funds available. Demand will increase as more and more communities complete their hazard mitigation plans (as required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000) and identify potential hazard mitigation projects. Moreover, mitigation has been proven to be a worthwhile taxpayer investment—it has been demonstrated that $4 in benefits are achieved for each $1 invested in hazard mitigation under FEMA’s programs.

The ASFPM and its 27 State Chapters represent over 11,000 state and local officials and other professionals who are engaged in all aspects of floodplain management and hazard mitigation. This includes floodplain management, mapping, engineering, planning, community development, hydrology, forecasting, emergency response, water resources and insurance. All ASFPM members are concerned with working to reduce our nation’s flood-related losses. Our members head offices that are designated by their Governors to coordinate the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) within their states, and many others are involved in the administration of and participation in FEMA’s disaster mitigation programs, as well as state authorized and funded programs that reduce flood losses. For more information on ASFPM, our website is: http://www.floods.org.

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Larry Larson at the Executive Office.

Sincerely,

Al W. Goodman, Jr., CFM
ASFPM Chair