Resolution on Disaster Relief Funds

WHEREAS the distribution of disaster relief funds following a flood has a major impact on reconstruction in floodplains, areas which will be subject to more disastrous flooding in the future;

WHEREAS disaster relief funds should be withheld or made available in such a manner as to further the objectives of good floodplain management and to reduce an area’s potential for future damage; and

WHEREAS the Association of State Floodplain Managers has always supported programs and activities that reduce flood losses and public expenditures for properties that are repeatedly damaged;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by this Association that we support and recommend for passage the following sections of S 1525, “Disaster Relief Act Amendments of 1983” currently under consideration in Congress:

1. Section 9 which reduces disaster assistance payments for flooded public and private nonprofit facilities located in special flood hazard areas by an amount equal to reasonable and adequate flood insurance coverage. This provision will encourage the purchase of flood insurance which will help shift the taxpayers’ burden of disaster assistance to the owners of floodplain properties and will also provide financial assistance for flooded properties when there is no disaster declaration.

2. Section 13(a) which ensures that no disaster assistance funds will be awarded for public and private nonprofit facilities unless they are repaired, reconstructed, or replaced in compliance with floodplain management and flood hazard mitigation criteria and other applicable codes. This provision will provide an increased role for floodplain managers and will mandate even better state-FEMA coordination following a flood.

3. Section 15 which authorizes 50% Federal cost-sharing toward hazard mitigation projects. This section will prove to have a great impact on disaster recovery and reconstruction operations by supporting damage reduction projects that cannot otherwise be funded. However, because the funds available will not exceed 2.5% of a portion of the disaster assistance effort, the Association recommends that the formula be revised to permit more funding of worthy projects. The extra funds expended will pay off in the future as positive steps are taken to reduce flood damage.

RESOLVED, this 14th day of September, 1983.