Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
March 8, 2018

Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Minority Member, Senate Appropriations Committee

Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee

Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Minority Member, House Appropriations Committee

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members,

The Association of State Floodplain Managers urges you to increase funding for Pre-disaster Mitigation and for flood-risk mapping at the Federal Emergency Management Agency. As you consider priorities for use of additional funding made possible due to the agreed upon budget caps for FY 2018 and FY 2019, we remind you that additional investments in flood-risk mapping and hazard mitigation will actually reduce future disaster costs to the nation.

We are grateful the House and Senate versions of the FY18 Homeland Security Appropriations bill include funding at the FY17 level for flood-risk mapping even though the Administration had proposed no funding for this purpose.

Instead, they proposed another fee for mapping in addition to the policy fee already associated with flood insurance policies under the National Flood Insurance Program. As you know, that existing fee contributes almost half of the budget for mapping. The other portion appropriately comes from appropriated funds since flood-risk maps benefit all taxpayers, not just NFIP policyholders. We appreciate your agreement that mapping costs should be shared by policyholders and taxpayers at large.

ASFPM further appreciates the funding for Pre-disaster Mitigation in the Senate bill at the same level as FY17. There is growing understanding of the importance of up-front investment in reducing the costs of disasters in dollars, lives, property and economic

\textit{Dedicated to reducing flood risk and losses in the nation.}
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vitality. Floods are our nation’s most frequent and most costly natural disasters and the recently released report from the National Institute of Building Sciences concluded that investment in flood-hazard mitigation saves $7 for every $1 spent. Clearly investment in hazard mitigation is fiscally wise policy.

We urge the Appropriations Committees to consider funding the National Flood Mapping Program at $400 million for FY18, the authorized funding level, because we are continuing to find that current funding levels are failing to keep pace with necessary mapping updates, and the new mapping necessary for developing and urbanizing areas as communities continue to grow. As a result new development is being constructed with inadequate flood risk and elevation data. And we find subsequently that new developments are inadequately elevated relative to appropriate safety levels, leaving communities with greater flood risks and higher flood insurance premiums than otherwise would have occurred. ASFPM estimates the cost to provide all flood map data required under the NFMP nationally to be between $4.5-$7.5 billion.

ASFPM urges provision of funding for flood-risk mapping and pre-disaster mitigation at levels above those currently in your FY18 bills. Thank you for consideration of our strong recommendation.

Very sincerely,

Maria Cox Lamm, Chair
Chad Berginnis, Executive Director

cc: Honorable John Boozman, Chairman
    Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security
    Honorable Jon Tester, Ranking Minority Member
    Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security
    Honorable John Carter, Chairman
    House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security
    Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard, Ranking Minority Member
    House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security