

NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE STATE FLOOD MITIGATION REVOLVING FUND:

American Planning Association	Natural Resources Defense Council
American Rivers	Property Casualty Insurance Association of America
American Society of Civil Engineers	Reinsurance Association of America
Association of State Floodplain Managers	Smart Home America
Consumer Mortgage Coalition	St. Bernard Project
Ecological Restoration Business Association	The Nature Conservancy
Enterprise Community Partners	The Pew Charitable Trusts
Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety	Union of Concerned Scientists
National Institute of Building Sciences	U.S. Resiliency Council
Natural Hazard Mitigation Association	

THE PROBLEM

Flooding is the costliest and most common natural disaster in the U.S., claiming lives, damaging households and businesses, and straining government agencies that provide flood response and relief. Since 2000, flood-related disasters have cost over \$750 billion. The federal government and states need to pursue more investment before disasters strike to help protect our communities and lower the cost burden on American taxpayers in future floods.

THE VALUE OF FLOOD MITIGATION

According to a 2018 report by the National Institute of Building Sciences, for every dollar spent on hazard mitigation, the nation saves \$6. In the case of riverine flood, projects involving acquisition or demolition of flood-prone buildings save \$7 for every dollar invested. The benefits come largely from avoided property damage, casualties associated with storms, and savings when businesses and communities quickly return to normal following a flood event.

Despite these findings, the federal approach to flood disasters continues to focus on response and recovery while underinvesting in preparation. In too many instances, infrastructure or homes are rebuilt as they were, only to flood again. Investments in pre-disaster mitigation have historically failed to meet demand, perpetuating this cycle of loss and repair. Although the federal government spent \$277.6 billion from 2005 to 2014 on overall disaster assistance, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has spent just \$600 million on its Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program over the same time period.

NEEDED: A NEW FEDERAL-STATE PARTNERSHIP

The federal government can break the cycle of paying to repeatedly rebuild by increasing investments *before* disasters strike. FEMA and other federal agencies, however, cannot solve this problem alone. Localities and states are key decision-makers for policies that affect flood risk, with clear authorities to guide new development away from hazardous areas and enforce building standards that will protect lives and property.

A cost-sharing partnership, capitalized, in part, with federal monies administered by states, and tailored to unique local needs, could provide a long-term, self-sustaining source of financing for a wide range of projects. Since its inception in 1987, for example, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund has leveraged \$41 billion in federal investments and 7.6 billion in corresponding state contributions for \$118 billion in high priority water quality projects. The revolving loan fund model, also used successfully for drinking water treatment facilities, energy efficiency projects, and economic development, could address the nation's flood preparation needs as well.

THE SOLUTION

Legislation introduced in Congress for a State Flood Mitigation Revolving Fund program ([S. 1507](#)) would create a new partnership with states to provide low-interest loans for projects that save lives and dollars.

With federal backing and local engagement, this legislation would allow each state to select and implement the types of mitigation projects best suited to the unique flood hazards it faces. Projects supported by the individual state revolving funds could include elevations and flood proofing of public buildings, businesses, and residences; improvements to stormwater management; assistance to local residents who wish to move out of harm's way; or converting frequently flooded areas into open space amenities.

With billions of dollars and countless lives at risk, and following yet another year of record-breaking storms and floods, now is the time for Congress to act.

MORE SUPPORT FOR THE STATE FLOOD MITIGATION REVOLVING FUND:

CA

American Planning Association – California Chapter
American Planning Association – San Diego Chapter
California Coastkeepers Alliance
California Nevada Cement Association
Fresno Chamber of Commerce
Friends of the LA River
Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce
Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce
Klamath Riverkeeper
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Waterkeeper
North Orange County Chamber of Commerce
Orange County Business Council
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
Sequoia Riverlands Trust

CO

Colorado Municipal Association

GA

Altamaha Riverkeeper
American Planning Association – Georgia Chapter
Center for a Sustainable Coast
Coosa River Basin Initiative
St. Marys Riverkeeper
Georgia Association of Floodplain Management

IA

Food Bank of Iowa
Iowa State Association of Counties
Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Management
Association

ID

American Planning Association – Idaho Chapter
Association of Idaho Cities

IL

Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation
Districts

MN

Minnesota Association of Floodplain Managers
Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless

MO

Great Rivers Habitat Alliance
Great Rivers Greenway

NC

American Planning Association – North Carolina
Chapter
North Carolina Conservation Network
North Carolina Association of Floodplain Managers
North Carolina Housing Coalition

NY

Orleans County Chamber of Commerce
Regional Plan Association

PA

10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Association of State Floodplain
Managers

SC

Coastal Conservation League
Municipal Association of South Carolina
South Carolina Association of Counties
South Carolina Insurance Association
The Nature Conservancy of South Carolina

TN

Greater Nashville Regional Council
Nashville Civic Design Center
Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic
Development Council
Tennessee Small Business Alliance
The Housing Fund
Vanderbilt Engineering Center for Transportation and
Operational Resiliency
Walk Bike Nashville

TX

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership
Concerned Citizens of Texas
Cypress Creek Flood Prevention
Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce
Lake Travis Fire Rescue
Resource Environmental Solutions, LLC
West Isle Property Owners Association
West Houston Association

WI

The Association of Wisconsin Regional Planning
Commissions
League of Wisconsin Municipalities
The Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation
Association
Wisconsin EMS Association
American Planning Association – Wisconsin Chapter