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 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:

**AZ**
Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce
Sedona Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau

**CA**
American Planning Association – California Chapter
American Planning Association – San Diego Chapter
California Coastkeepers Alliance
California Nevada Cement Association
City of Roseville
City of Santa Maria
Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce
Friends of the LA River
Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce
Greater Los Angeles African American 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
Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce
Santa Cruz Area Chamber of Commerce
Sequoia Riverlands Trust
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Organizations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| CO    | American Planning Association – Colorado Chapter  
        Colorado Municipal League  
        Estes Park Economic Development Council  
        Special Districts Association of Colorado  
        Urban Drainage and Flood Control District |
| DE    | Delaware Nature Society |
| FL    | Broward County  
        Florida Floodplain Managers Association |
| GA    | Altamaha Riverkeeper  
        American Planning Association – Georgia Chapter  
        Center for a Sustainable Coast  
        Coosa River Basin Initiative  
        EarthShare Georgia  
        Georgia Association of Floodplain Management  
        Humane Society for Greater Savannah  
        LifeLine Animal Project  
        St. Marys Riverkeeper  
        Trees Atlanta |
| IA    | Food Bank of Iowa  
        Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association  
        Iowa Ground Water Association  
        Iowa State Association of Counties  
        Quad Cities Waterkeeper |
| ID    | Association of Idaho Cities  
        American Planning Association – Idaho Chapter |
| IL    | Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
        Illinois Groundwater Association |
| IN    | Indiana Dunes Tourism |
| MN    | Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers  
        Conservation Minnesota  
        Minnesota Association of Floodplain Managers  
        Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless  
        Minnesota Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers |
| MO    | Great Rivers Greenway  
        Great Rivers Habitat Alliance  
        Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper |
| MS    | Tishomingo County Tourism Council |
| NC    | MountainTrue  
        North Carolina Association of Floodplain Managers  
        North Carolina Coastal Federation  
        North Carolina Conservation Network  
        North Carolina Housing Coalition |
| NJ    | Environment New Jersey  
        New Jersey Future  
        Pinelands Preservation Alliance  
        South Jersey Land & Water Trust  
        The Conservancy of New Jersey |
NY
Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce
Cayuga County Economic Development Agency
Center for NYC Neighborhoods
Gowanus Canal Conservancy
Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of New York State
New York Riverkeeper
New York State Rural Housing Coalition
Niagara USA Chamber of Commerce
Orleans County Chamber of Commerce
Orleans Economic Development Agency
Regional Plan Association
Resilient Red Hook
The Bronx River Alliance

TN
Greater Nashville Regional Council
Greenspaces Chattanooga
Nashville Civic Design Center
North Chickamauga Creek Conservancy
Tennessee Association of Floodplain Managers
Tennessee Development District Association
Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council
Tennessee Small Business Alliance
The Housing Fund
Upper Cumberland Development District
Vanderbilt Engineering Center for Transportation and Operational Resiliency
Walk Bike Nashville

OH
Brecksville Chamber of Commerce
Chamber of Commerce in Broadview Heights
Green Area Chamber of Commerce
Tallmadge Chamber of Commerce

PA
10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania
Central PA Alliance for Response
Humane PA
PennFuture
Pennsylvania Association of State Floodplain Managers
Schuylkill Headwaters Association, Inc.

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

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 Houston Association
West Isle Property Owners Association

UT
St. George Chamber of Commerce

WI
American Planning Association – Wisconsin Chapter
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission
Eau Claire Area School District=
Gathering Waters: Wisconsin’s Alliance for Land Trusts
League of Wisconsin Municipalities
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
St. Croix River Association
Superior Rivers Watershed Association
The Association of Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions
The Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association
Wisconsin Counties Association
Wisconsin EMS Association