

March 21, 2016

The Honorable John R. Carter
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
B-307 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
B-307 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Roybal-Allard:

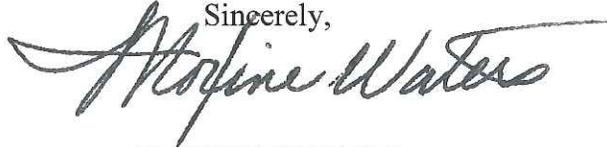
Floods are the leading cause of natural disaster losses in the United States. Studies have indicated that the Federal taxpayer is paying a greater share of disaster costs today than ever before. Flood mapping is a critical component of building resilient communities and protecting property and life in the face of disaster.

Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are the primary type of flood maps in the United States. FIRMs are developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through its Risk MAP program. FEMA's mapping efforts help communities better understand their flood risks and how they can prepare for those risks. Currently, FEMA's mapping is paid for through a combination of appropriated dollars and policy fees that are paid by policyholders. Rather than continue to raise policy fees and place a higher burden on homeowners and businesses, Congress should prioritize investing federal dollars in better technology and improved maps in order to provide the best tools for managing flood risks and building sustainable communities.

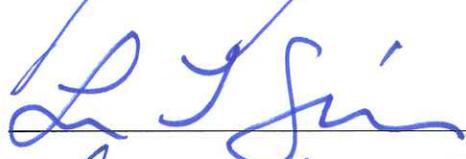
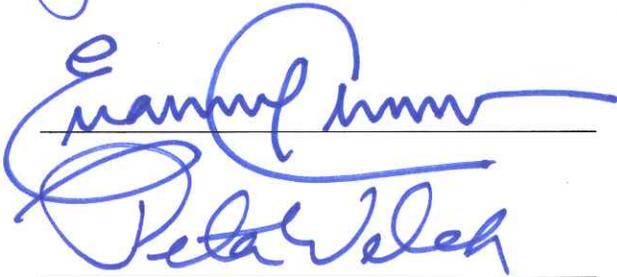
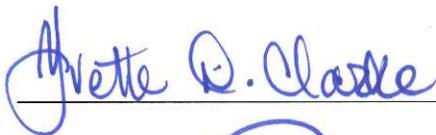
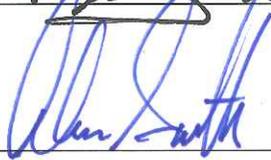
The cost-benefit to investing in better maps is clear – taxpayers save over \$2 for every \$1 spent on flood mapping. In a recent report entitled, *Flood Mapping for the Nation: A Cost Analysis for the Nation's Flood Map Inventory*, the Association of Floodplain Managers conducted a comprehensive analysis of the costs to updating the nation's flood mapping. By their estimates, it would take up to \$7.5 billion to provide adequate flood maps for all communities in the nation. This national investment in a comprehensive, updated flood map inventory will actually drive down costs in the event of a disaster. Rather than continue to increase the amount of federal dollars spent after disaster strikes, Congress should prioritize investment of federal dollars for our nation's flood maps. All taxpayers ultimately pay for the consequences of flooding through emergency relief, and it is high time that we seek to proactively invest in the tools that communities need to better protect themselves so that we can build resilient communities, save more lives, and reduce disaster costs in the long term.

Therefore, I request that you fund FEMA's Risk MAP program at \$1.5 billion in FY 2017, and commit to maintaining this funding level over the next 5 years to invest a total of \$7.5 billion into FEMA's Risk MAP program.

Sincerely,



MAXINE WATERS
Ranking Member



Jackie Speier

Ed Sumner

Christ V. Cox

Frank Jackson

Earl Blumenauer

Billy West

Dave Loefer

Lori Frankel

Joni Benning

St. F. De

Mark Sp

Fah Vel

AE

Rosa DeLauro

Steve Cohn

Richard Veliz

Richard Shelby

EBB

Matthew A. Cart

Debbie Dingell

Patrick Murphy

John Lewis

Elizabeth H. Esty

Stacy L. Hestoff

The Honorable John R. Carter
The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Page 4
March 21, 2016

Kathy Cast

Villin R. Kenty

Karen Bass