



April 19, 2018

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0908

The Honorable Dick Durbin
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1304

Dear Senators Rubio and Durbin:

On behalf of the Florida League of Cities, I write in strong support of S. 2701, the Flood Mapping Modernization and Homeowner Empowerment Pilot Program Act of 2018. Thank you for sponsoring legislation that would create a pilot grant program for cities to enhance mapping and better mitigate urban flooding. This grant will help cities improve their mapping technology which can be used to help homeowners, businesses and other localities understand and mitigate the risk of potential flooding.

As you know, flooding is a serious risk in Florida due to the state's geography and proximity to water, both inland and coastal. Florida has the largest number of participants in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and pays four times more into the program than it receives in claim payments. As Florida experiences more frequent urbanization, many urban municipalities have seen a rise in flood activity. This urbanization, coupled with frequent rain, hurricanes, and inadequate or outdated storm water infrastructure has only worsened the growing threat of urban flooding.

Many of these urban areas that experience reoccurring flooding are often outside of regulatory floodplains, and subsequently not covered by the NFIP. To better protect home and business owners from facing clean-up and maintenance costs, a stronger effort to learn about flood mapping potential in these areas is necessary to implement effective preventive solutions in the long term.

Nationwide, NFIP flood maps are generally outdated and do not accurately measure a community's floods risk. Efforts should be made to work directly with cities, counties and other stakeholders on the map revision process, ensuring locally generated data and models are considered. The pilot program created in the Flood Mapping Modernization Act is a good first step as it will establish a grant program to allow cities to develop better methods for mapping, understanding and mitigating urban flooding.

If there is anything we can do to assist with this legislation, please contact Allison Payne at apayne@flcities.com or 850-701-3602. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

In the fight for Home Rule,


Michael Sittig
Executive Director