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Florida Cities Support Bipartisan Rubio/Durbin Plan to Mitigate Urban Flooding

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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The Florida League of Cities is applauding U.S. Senators Marco Rubio and Dick Durbin for sponsoring legislation that would create a pilot grant program for cities to enhance mapping and better mitigate urban flooding.

The bipartisan Flood Mapping Modernization and Homeowner Empowerment Pilot Program Act of 2018 would provide \$5.5 million for demonstration grants to help cities improve mapping technologies and turn over better data to Congress and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

“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,” wrote Florida League of Cities Executive Director Mike Sittig in a letter to the U.S. Senators. “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.”

Florida has the largest number of participants in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), even paying four times more into the program than it receives in claim payments. And yet, many of the state’s urban areas experiencing 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 preventative solutions in the long term. The Florida League of Cities believes the pilot program created in the Flood Mapping Modernization Act is a good first step toward achieving that.

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Founded in 1922, the Florida League of Cities is the united voice for Florida’s municipal governments. Its goals are to promote local self-government and serve the needs of Florida’s cities. Florida’s cities are formed by their citizens and governed by their citizens. The League is founded on the belief that local self-government is the keystone of American democracy. For more information, visit www.floridaleagueofcities.com