

Rep. Kevin Mullin (CA-15)

Thank you Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen for inviting me here today, I'm grateful for your audience.

On New Years Eve of 2022, my home state of California saw firsthand the real danger of climate change. Unprecedented flooding from several atmospheric rivers wreaked havoc throughout my district, causing damage to private property, public infrastructure, and disrupting the lives of many of my constituents.

For example, in the City of San Mateo, residents who have never experienced storms like this in the past are now facing catastrophic losses. To quote one constituent regarding their experience after one of the latest storms began: "I've lived in San Mateo for 33 years, and where we lived has never, ever flooded...about four hours [after it started], I was, in vain, attempting to bail out my house."

We know from the data that we need to address flooding in our community now. That is why I have respectfully submitted to the Committee a request for a feasibility study of flood control and stormwater runoff reduction measures that might be taken in San Mateo. These efforts will protect this city from the increased threat of extreme weather events.

But zooming out, we know this is a problem across the country. Moreover, communities are finding it challenging to work within the authorized dollar amounts for continuing authority programs. A common sense policy change that I am submitting to the Committee is to modestly adjust these dollar amounts for inflation and for regional cost differences.

This adjustment would better support projects across the country, including in my own district where there is an ongoing effort to protect the bayfront city of East Palo Alto and the San Francisquito Creek which runs through it.

I ask that you consider the impact these requests will have on the way communities across the nation respond to extreme weather. Thank you for your time and for all your work on this year's Act.