



A NATIONAL LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM IS A CRITICAL INVESTMENT IN LIFE SAFETY AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

We, the following nonfederal members of the National Committee on Levee Safety, are writing to express our support for inclusion of the Levee Safety Initiative in the H.R. 3080 Conference Report for the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, which includes several of the recommendations made by the National Committee on Levee Safety for the development of a National Levee Safety Program:

- A national levee database and an inventory and inspection of federal and non-federal levees.
- National voluntary levee safety guidelines.
- Technical assistance and training to promote levee safety and assist States, communities and levee owners.
- A national public education and awareness program.
- Recognition of state and tribal levee safety programs.

The Levee Safety Initiative is important as it provides for technical assistance and grants to States and Tribes to establish levee safety programs. It also includes a Levee Rehabilitation Assistance Program that would provide assistance to states, Tribes, and local governments to conduct flood mitigation activities that reduce flood risk associated with levees. It is also encouraging that the Levee Safety Initiative anticipates future adjustments and enhancements, perhaps including implementation of other recommendations made by the National Committee on Levee Safety.

The Levee Safety Initiative is a solid foundation for a comprehensive **National Levee Safety Program**. **Such a program is a wise and needed investment** in reducing the costs of future levee-related flood disasters, and helps move the country away from a reactive and expensive disaster assistance environment to a proactive, safety-oriented culture.

Thank you for your attention to this important and urgently needed national investment.

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