



# ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, INC.

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December 6, 2024

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chair  
House Transportation &  
Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
House Transportation &  
Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

On behalf of the Association of State Floodplain Managers, we write to thank you for your dedicated work on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024. Floodplain managers across the country recognize WRDA as one of the cornerstones for reducing flood risks and preparing for a changing climate. This critical legislation enables vital investments in flood risk management, infrastructure resilience, and ecological sustainability, all of which are priorities for floodplain managers and the communities our members serve.

ASFPM is a scientific and educational organization dedicated to reducing flood loss across the nation. Together with our 38 state chapters, we represent more than 20,000 state and local officials, as well as professionals in the private sector and academia, engaged in all aspects of floodplain management and flood mitigation. We work to educate policy makers on sound floodplain management policies and practices, deliver on-going professional development and training events, conduct applied research, and administer the national Certified Floodplain Manager certification program.

We are pleased to see that a number of elements of WRDA 2024 address growing challenges posed by a changing climate by promoting resilient infrastructure and adaptation strategies that are critical to reducing vulnerabilities and ensuring communities can withstand more frequent and severe flooding events, while emphasizing ecosystem restoration, including wetland and floodplain rehabilitation, that provides for natural flood mitigation while bolstering biodiversity. These investments in flood risk reduction mitigate economic losses and promote long-term stability for our communities.

Most importantly, we are pleased to see support for the Corps Continuing Authorities programs, including a new Pilot Program for Alternative Project Delivery (Sec. 1107(a)), as well as Sec. 1135 Project Modifications for the Environment or Drought Resiliency, Sec. 206, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration, the

*Dedicated to reducing flood risk and losses in the nation.*

## Chair

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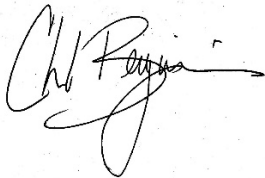
# Association of State Floodplain Managers, Inc.

Sec. 165(a) Community Revitalization Program, and several others. These Continuing Authorities programs give the Corps substantial abilities and tools to assist communities to address a wide range of floodplain management concerns, often with innovative and practical approaches that other authorities lack. In addition, ASFPM is pleased to see the recognition in Sec. 1114 of the highly innovative Silver Jackets program, which brings together a broad mix of federal, state, and local expertise and public involvement to address flood risk management across the nation. We also support Sec. 1132 extending authorization of the National Dam Safety Program, and clarifies floodplain management plan requirements for High Hazard Potential Dam grant program applicants. Additionally, ASFPM supports the initiation in Sec. 1123 of expanded Corps efforts in the National Coastal Mapping Program, which will provide critical information for coastal management, development, and conservation in the face of rising coastal hazard risks across the nation. We also strongly urge support for a number of the excellent GAO studies described in Sec. 1244 of the bill, and ASFPM would hope to participate and contribute as they are undertaken.

WRDA in 2024 represents an opportunity to make some significant advancements in floodplain management and resilience while addressing the needs of many communities nationwide.

We appreciate and thank you for your leadership and commitment to safeguarding our nation's infrastructure and communities. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you would like to discuss any of these or other issues further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chad Berginnis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chad Berginnis  
Executive Director