



NEW YORK STATE
FLOODPLAIN AND STORMWATER MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

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July 15, 2008

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Honorable Charles E. Schumer
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Sent by Facsimile: 202-228-3027

Re: Amendment to Bill Authorizing Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (S. 3175)

Dear Senator Schumer:

The New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association (NYSFSMA) is a statewide professional association dedicated to reducing loss of life and property damage resulting from floods. The NYSFSMA would like to draw your attention to the attached letter from the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) regarding the bill to reauthorize the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program (S. 3177). We strongly support this program and agree with the ASFPM position opposing the amendment that would make structural flood control projects eligible for PDM funds.

The PDM grant program is a valuable source of funding for non-structural hazard mitigation projects, which enables New York's municipalities to proactively reduce damages from the state's chronic flooding. Every year there are many more qualified applications for eligible projects than can be funded.

Structural flood control projects have traditionally been the responsibility of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which have technical expertise and funding mechanisms to address those needs. Inclusion of structural projects in the PDM program would result in duplication of efforts and could undermine the purpose of the PDM program.

The NYSFSMA thus opposes redirection of FEMA's non-structural flood mitigation grant funding to structural flood control projects. We thank you for your consideration of the attached comments and for your ongoing commitment to protecting lives and property by making New York more resilient to flooding.

Sincerely,

Janet Thigpen, CFM
Chair