

Apalachicola Riverkeeper · Arkansas Public Policy Panel · Arkansas Wildlife Federation · Atlantic States Legal Foundation · Black Warrior Riverkeeper · Bluestem Communications · Center for Environmental Law and Policy · Conservation Law Foundation · Copper River Watershed Project · Delta Chapter of Sierra Club · Endangered Habitats League · Environmental Law and Policy Center · Farmington River Watershed Association · Friends for Our Riverfront · Friends of the Rivers of Virginia · Friends of Pool 2 · Gulf Restoration Network · Huron River Watershed Council · Idaho Rivers United · Iowa Environmental Council · Kentucky Waterways Alliance · Labadie Environmental Organization · Midwest Environmental Advocates · Minnesota Conservation Foundation · Missouri Coalition for the Environment · MnDak Upstream Coalition · Natural Resources Council of Maine · Natural Resources Defense Council · Nebraska Wildlife Federation · New Jersey Future · New Hampshire Rivers Council · New River Conservancy · Oregon Environmental Council · Prairie Rivers Network · River Management Society · River Network · Tennessee Clean Water Network · The River Project · Tualatin Riverkeepers · Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper · Water-Culture Institute

Sept. 8th, 2015

United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Executive Order 13690, Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard

Dear Representative:

We, the undersigned organizations, write in support of Executive Order 13690, *Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input*. Flood risks are rising in response to climate change and it is essential we prepare our nation to be resilient in the face of this new reality. Implementing the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (Standard) will yield enhanced protection to people and property, result in cost savings on damages avoided, and lead to environmental improvements.

In the United States, the economic, environmental and social consequences of flooding are pervasive. Dollar losses due to tropical storms and other flood events have tripled over the past 50 years, and currently comprise more than half of all natural disaster losses. Due to climate change, flood losses in the United States will likely continue to worsen, putting more people and property at risk.

Rising sea levels and more frequent extreme rain events will make coastal areas and riverine communities increasingly susceptible to flooding. Riverine communities throughout the country are entering a future in which flood events will not only become more frequent, but will also become more severe. For many coastal communities, flood risk is projected to increase substantially within the next 100 years as seas levels rise between two and six feet by 2100.

Investing in preparedness and resilience is imperative for avoiding these risks, and implementing the Standard is crucial to that effort. Under the Standard, federal agencies must use more protective design standards when making decisions about what to build, where to build, and which local and state projects receive federal funding. Agencies will have the flexibility to choose among the following:

- Use the best available climate science data to determine future flood conditions, and build above that future flood level
- Build structures and facilities two feet above the 100-year flood level for standard projects and three feet for critical projects like hospitals;
- Build to the 500-year flood level.

Pre-disaster mitigation efforts, which include building to a higher standard, are proven to reduce the associated costs of post-disaster recovery. Long-term, the Standard will reduce the costs of future flooding, as it is cheaper to build safer today than it is to rebuild tomorrow. Thus, we urge you to stand in support of the Standard and oppose efforts to block its implementation.

Sincerely,

(41 Organizations and their Representative appearing on the following pages),

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