January 15, 2015

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500  

Dear President Obama:  

I am concerned that you intend to soon issue a new Flood Risk Management Standard despite the prohibitions contained in Section 749 of the Fiscal Year 2015 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, which you signed into law just one month ago. 

Should you begin implementation of a new Flood Risk Management Standard through unilateral issuance of agency guidance, an executive order, or a memorandum before input from Governors, mayors, and other stakeholders has been solicited and considered, you will be acting in opposition to the clear intent of Congress. Such disregard for a bipartisan provision of law calling for transparency and public engagement would be troubling. As I stated in my November 20, 2014, letter to you, the public and its elected representatives deserve to understand the costs, benefits and scientific rationale behind any such standard before it is issued. 

I urge you again to halt development or issuance of the FFRMS and work with Congress and other stakeholders to develop a better understanding of the implications of additional Federal actions to manage flood risk. I look forward to your response to these concerns and those expressed in my November 20th letter. 

Sincerely, 

THAD COCHRAN  
United States Senator 

cc:  
The Honorable Jeh Johnson, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security  
The Honorable Craig Fugate, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency