United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 5, 2015

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

Dear President Obama:

We are writing regarding your January 30, 2015, issuance of Executive Order 13690, "Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) and a process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input."

The recently enacted FY2015 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act (Public Law 113-235) clearly states that the Administration must solicit and consider input from Governors mayors, and other stakeholders before implementing a new FFRMS (Title VII, Section 749). This calls into question the legality of the issuance of the January 30th order.

In an effort to understand the rationale behind this action, we request that you provide the following information in writing no later than February 17, 2015:

1. Please identify any non-government organizations or individuals that had any role whatsoever in composing, editing, drafting, reviewing or developing any part of the FFRMS, the draft version of the Implementing Guidelines published in a Federal Register Notice on February 5, 2015, pursuant to EO 13690. Identify the individuals, their organizations, their roles in the process, including any individuals or organizations that worked through a contractual relationship with any office, agency or department of the Executive Branch.

2. Please identify the Governors, mayors, and other stakeholders from whom input was solicited prior to the establishment of the new FFRMS. Include the dates input was solicited, the dates any response or input was provided, and a summary of any input and responses that were considered in the development of the FFRMS.

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3. Please provide a detailed summary of the activities of the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group since its inception relating to the development of the FFRMS, including a list of Federal members. Also provide a list of non-federal members, including state, local and tribal governments, private sector and non-government organizations, and include a summary of their involvement in the development of the FFRMS and the dates such involvement occurred.

4. Consistent with Executive Orders 13563 and 12866, please detail the methods used in determining the costs, benefits or scientific rationale of the FFRMS prior to its issuance, and provide the results of any such analyses.

5. Please provide a detailed accounting of any activities to engage the public and their representatives in Congress in the development of the FFRMS prior to January 30, 2015, not otherwise addressed herein.

6. Please provide a detailed accounting of any funds expended to support the activities of the Water Resources Council, including the source of all such funds. Identify any Executive Branch personnel, including offices, departments, and agencies, utilized to support the activities of the Water Resources Council. Also include the dates any meetings of the Water Resources Council were held, attendance at such meetings, and whether there was any public notice of any meetings.

We continue to express serious concern regarding the vast implications the issuance of a new FFRMS would have on families and workers in communities along the coasts and inland waterways. We look forward to your responses on this important matter.

Sincerely,

THAD COCHRAN
United States Senator

DAVID VITTER
Unites States Senator

JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator

JOHNNY ISAKSON
United States Senator

February 5, 2015

ROGER WICKER
Unites States Senator

ROY BLUNT
United States Senator

JOHN BOOZMAN
United States Senator

BILL CASSIDY
Unites States Senator

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