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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0512**

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September 8, 2009

Mr. Craig Fugate, Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Federal Center Plaza  
500 C Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. Fugate:

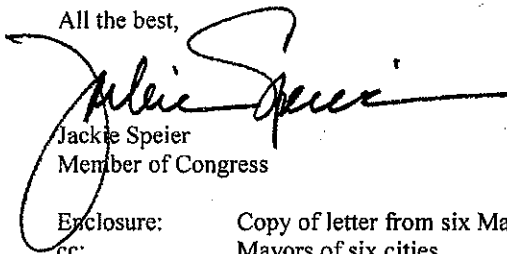
I write in support of the request by cities within my district to extend the issuance of the new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) to March of 2011 in order to give these communities the time needed to finish needed levee repairs. It simply doesn't make sense to impose flood insurance increases and/or new requirements to buy insurance for a few months. We break faith with the public by proposing to do so.

All of these communities are firmly on the path toward fixing the problems that have been identified by FEMA. Money exists to fix those problems and the projects are progressing. Your staff is working closely to help these cities complete the projects, and multiple state and federal regulatory agencies are also working in a coordinated manner to get these projects completed.

Imposing a new map will add a significant and unnecessary cost to homeowners during the few months that it will take to finish. As I understand it, the maps would be effective from roughly October 2010 to March 2011, at which point the certification of the levee repairs would be made and the maps would be obsolete. It isn't just unfair, but it's also going to make it more difficult to muster public support for any future projects that may be needed should global sea level increases make additional work necessary. In short, a new map for a few months defeats the purpose of creating long-term public support for levee repair and upgrading.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

All the best,

  
Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

Enclosure: Copy of letter from six Mayors  
cc: Mayors of six cities

KJS/bp