



DAVID A. RAYMOND
PRESIDENT & CEO

June 29, 2018

The Honorable John Culberson
2162 Rayburn HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Congressman Culberson:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) – the business association of the nation’s engineering industry – we wish to express our strong support for H.R. 5569/S. 2701 the "Flood Mapping Modernization and Homeowner Empowerment Pilot Program Act of 2018."

ACEC represents over 5,000 firms nationwide that are engaged in a wide range of engineering works that support the nation's economy and quality of life. Many of those firms work closely with public and private sector clients on flood control and other projects to protect people and businesses during wet weather events.

Under the National Flood Insurance Program, FEMA assesses and communicates flood risk to local communities through its Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). These FIRMS are designed to accurately assess risk within the traditional regulatory floodplain. However, urban flooding, which is normally triggered by flash flooding, storm surges and snow melt, often occurs outside the traditional regulatory floodplain and is not always accurately assessed by FEMA.

Your legislation will help to address this shortcoming by providing demonstration grants for cities to invest in innovative mapping technologies and mitigation strategies, allowing them to more accurately assess their flood risks, especially in urban areas located outside of the traditional floodplains or FIRMs. This program would also support better design measures and flood mitigation policies to mitigate future risks. Lessons learned would subsequently be considered by FEMA for application to improve its National Flood Mapping Program.

Flood mapping modernization will help to fill the gap and support needed change in disaster recovery policy. The more we’re able to accurately assess and mitigate future risks, the better position we’ll ultimately be in to ensure that our nation’s infrastructure is protected for decades to come.

Thank you for your introduction of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Raymond", is written over a light blue horizontal line.