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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4702

ARMED SERVICES

SMALL BUSINESS

January 7, 2008

Ms. Susan Reinertson
Regional Director
Region X
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Federal Regional Center
130 228th Street, SW
Bothell, WA 98021-9796

Mr. Mark Carey
Mitigation Director
Region X
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Federal Regional Center
130 228th Street, SW
Bothell, WA 98021-9796

Dear Director Reinertson and Director Carey:

I write regarding FEMA's current flood mapping of Skagit County and to encourage you to consider a proposal that will be put forth by Skagit County, in partnership with the City of Mount Vernon, the City of Burlington, and Dike Districts 1 and 12.

It has been brought to my attention that the Skagit partnership plans to request that FEMA agree to a proposal for an independent, scientific panel to evaluate and identify the most technically and scientifically accurate hydrograph for use by FEMA and the community of Skagit County. This panel is intended to occur before the preliminary flood maps are released in order to bring finality to the review process, and in a way that allows a thorough and independent consideration of all scientific data. As such, this alternative method could be mutually advantageous: it would allow community participation and could avoid a lengthy administrative and judicial appeals process. This proposal could provide an opportunity to reach a fair conclusion that produces the highest level of public safety.

As you know, my concern throughout this process is that the most accurate and fair data be used in determining Skagit County's flood map in order to best protect its residents. To this end, I encourage your agency to consider the proposal from the Skagit partnership.

Sincerely,



Rick Larsen
U.S. Representative
Washington State, 2nd District