

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 15, 2009

Mr. Edward Connor  
Acting Assistant Administrator for Mitigation  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
1800 South Bell Street  
Arlington, VA 20598-3020

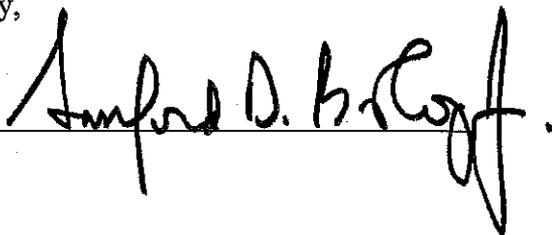
Dear Mr. Connor,

As you are aware, the recent flooding throughout northern Georgia left 20,000 homes, businesses and other buildings with major damage. The constant rain fell at a rate faster than the watersheds could drain the runoff, breaking records of more than a century. The Chattahoochee River rose to 500-year flood levels, measuring the highest levels since Buford Dam was built in 1956. The level of Lake Lanier increased by more than three feet in three days, which is nearly unprecedented without the effects of a hurricane.

Damage from the event has been estimated to cost at least \$500 million, and 17 counties in Georgia were declared Federal Disaster Areas. Many residents did not have flood insurance, and were not aware of previous flooding in the area, even when it occurred as recently as 2005. After roughly 100 homes were damaged following a flood in 2005, the Corps was asked to reassess the flood plains in affected areas in Georgia. However, no changes were made to the existing floodplain maps, leaving residents unaware of the risk posed to their homes and businesses due to the use of dated information. Many Georgians were thus left vulnerable to the damage of the recent flooding in the metropolitan Atlanta area, since they were not fully informed of the threat of flood damage.

In light of the extensive damage caused by the recent flooding, the hazard posed to residents living in these areas is clear, and floodplain maps should accurately reflect this risk. We respectfully request that FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers review the areas to assess flood potential, and to update or replace current floodplain maps where necessary. We firmly believe this is the first step in preventing such extensive damage and loss of life that occurred in our state just weeks ago. We thank you in advance for your prompt response to this request.

Sincerely,



Lynn A ~~W~~ H Jim Ansell

Frank Wilson John Lewis

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