

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2013

W. Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate,

We commend the efforts currently being undertaken by the Agency to work with and accommodate the technical comments and supporting data submitted by local officials to develop flood hazard maps for Palm Beach County. However, due to the enormous volume of technical information that has been developed, including an extensive modeling report that was recently published by the regional water management district, we are urging the Agency to extend the November 30th deadline for the submission of comments and provision of technical data on the preliminary flood maps for the County.

As the Agency continues to work with the County to update the flood maps, many of which have not been updated in more than 30 years, we know you agree it is critical that the end product be as scientifically accurate as possible. Indeed, the consequences of developing inaccurate flood maps could cause significant upheaval in the local real estate market; costly and unnecessary modifications in planned development and infrastructure; devastating impacts to the construction industry; and a decline in the overall economic viability of the County.

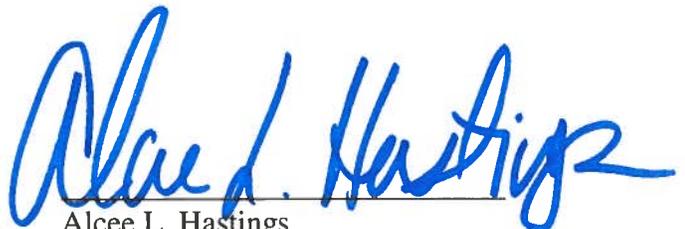
Given the importance that accurate flood maps have in protecting public safety and property, and the possible negative impact that any inaccuracies could have on the County's economy, we encourage the Agency to extend the comment period for a sufficient amount of time to permit a report by the water management district to be finalized and to allow technical experts from the local governments to complete their collection of data for incorporation into the development of the final flood maps.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Sincerely,



Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Patrick E. Murphy
Member of Congress