



AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

Your Comprehensive
Public Works Resource

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June 30, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
361A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the more than 29,000 members of the American Public Works Association (APWA), I am writing to express our support for the *National Flood Insurance Extension Act of 2010* (H.R. 5569) which would extend the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to September 30. On June 23, H.R. 5569 passed out of the House of Representatives by a voice vote.

Since the NFIP's expiration on May 31, 2010, flood insurance cannot be renewed and increased coverage requests cannot be processed. Moreover, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicted that the 2010 hurricane season will be extremely active—with as many as 14 to 23 named storms. Currently, Hurricane Alex is approaching the Texas coast, threatening to produce storm surge resulting in flash floods. Flooding of any type and size can significantly affect the nation, its citizens, and communities. Such disasters may cause death and injury, property and job loss, and disruption of public services. Therefore, it is imperative that H.R. 5569 be voted on as soon as possible.

Importantly, public works professionals rely on a strong NFIP, as they play a key role in emergency planning, response and recovery from flooding. Operating and maintaining critical infrastructure services, such as pumping mechanisms and drainage systems, levees and dams can directly impact the ability to respond to a flood. Ensuring that NFIP flood maps are up-to-date helps identify the degree of risk to public works facilities and to what degree flood insurance is needed. Through the NFIP public works agencies are able to effectively enforce mitigation measures such as formulating evacuation routes, planning the placement of barricades and sand-

PRESIDENT
Larry T. Koehle, P.Eng., MPA
Brampton, Ontario

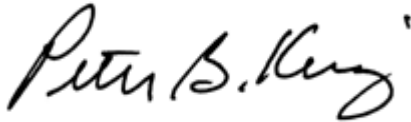
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Peter B. King

bags, potential debris removal operations, water distribution and wastewater/storm water collection systems/outages.

APWA's members plan, design, build, operate, manage, administer and maintain the water supply, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, transportation infrastructure and other structures and facilities essential to our nation's economy and way of life.

Thank you for your leadership. We look forward to working with you in moving this legislation forward. If you or your staff has any questions, please contact Laura Berkey, Government Affairs Manager, in APWA's Washington, D.C. Office at (202) 218-6734 or lberkey@apwa.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter B. King". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "P".

Peter B. King
APWA Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Maxine Waters
Senate Appropriations Committee Leadership
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Leadership
Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Leadership
APWA Emergency Management Committee
APWA Government Affairs Committee