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Mr. David Maurstad  
Deputy Associate Administrator  
Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (FIMA)  
FEMA HQ, Washington, DC

February 4, 2020

Dear Mr. Maurstad:

We write to you as Board Members of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association (NHMA) who are leading a strategic planning initiative that will update, define and implement NHMA disaster risk reduction and resilience goals and objectives going forward in support of National goals and initiatives. We are excited about FEMA's aspirations to convert mitigation moments into a movement with measurable results and outcomes! As you know, we share a long history of commitment to the principle of disaster mitigation, and for promotion of mitigation and resilience at the local level as the ultimate public safety objective. It is clear that Communities that invest in effective disaster mitigation and resilience are able to significantly reduce future disaster suffering and losses. We agree that Mitigation and Insurance = Social Norm.

NHMA leadership wants to assure that our performance under the Cooperative Technical Program (CTP) grants is focused on supporting the achievement of desired outcomes prescribed in the NMIS and other FEMA directives, and are currently working with your professional staff who manage those grants to identify the best value that NHMA can provide to FEMA with our expert resources and programs, and to request an ambitious increase in funding for the 2020 grant, from \$100,000 to \$150,000 in that regard.

In our correspondence to your staff, we propose a series of 2020 grant activities and deliverables (a number of these are summarized in the attached email). In particular we wish to call your attention to our opening comments in that letter which go beyond the standard grant deliverable conversation we typically pursue with staff. We need to have a broader discussion with Leadership in terms of how we can best collaborate in achieving desired mitigation and resilience outcomes at the local level going forward.

In that correspondence we point out that local governments often do not embrace investments in mitigation (including policy improvements) for fear that such measures might limit economic growth and development. Through NHMA's sponsorship of outreach activities, and NHMA's access to a wide range technical, scientific, legal and practical political expertise at the local government and social activist level we believe we can assist FIMA to jump-start an effort to promote

resilience at the local level by citing the economic, social legal and political benefits of a consistent commitment to mitigation, and thus resilience. In the limited instances (by virtue of funding availability that inhibits targeted marketing efforts) we have found our Disaster Risk Reduction Curriculum (24 modules in all) to be very positively received in communities – and we can tailor these modules to specifically focus on the priority risks and mitigation/resilience needs of each community.

Addressing known hazards in advance limits the extent of the recovery that is necessary, and can both accelerate critical infrastructure recovery and provide opportunities for improving future disaster resilience through DRRA and other new initiatives: We know that, FEMA/FIMA knows that, and we pledge to work with FIMA to brainstorm innovative methods of conveying this on a national scale. This effort can be similar to the “Flood Risk Management” initiatives that were launched post-Katrina.

NHMA leaders will convene in Alexandria, VA for the NEMA midyear forum. NHMA President, Erin Capps, and Vice President Tom Hughes plus others attending NEMA’s midyear would be pleased to meet with you either during the March 26-27 time frame (when we hope to brief your grant management staff) or during a sidebar during the NEMA forum if that is more convenient for you.

We endeavor to venture beyond the normal discussions of funding and deliverables, intending to spark a closer and more substantive role for NHMA in furthering mitigation/resilience concepts we all share, and that have often been frustrated by the obstacles we have all encountered in pursuit of our common objectives.

More disasters are looming; communities must be encouraged, incentivized, and yes, challenged to assume some of the burdens of incorporating mitigation into its governmental and political dialogue. NHMA is willing, able and eager to work with FIMA to select the most meaningful steps ahead.

//Signed//: Jim Mullen and Ed Hecker, NHMA Board of Directors