



ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, INC.

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December 8, 2008

John Podesta
Director of Transition Team
President Elect Barack Obama

Dear Mr. Podesta:

There are a multitude of key government position appointments that will need to be made as Senator Barack Obama prepares to take the office of President of the United States. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) plays a vital role in protecting our nation from the devastation of natural disasters, particularly as evidenced during and after Hurricane Katrina, the 2004 hurricanes that battered Florida, and more recently the 2008 summer flooding in the Midwest. We are at a pivotal time in history to shift from the policies of yesteryear to policies that will better serve our nation's changing needs. Therefore, the national Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) encourages the Obama administration to appoint a strong, effective, and renowned individual to head the Civil functions of the Corps of Engineers. The person we support for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, is **Gerald E. Galloway, Jr.**

Dr. Galloway's achievements have been extraordinary in shaping and promoting sound policy in the fields of disaster loss prevention, environmental issues, civil engineering, and water resources protection. He is presently a Glenn L. Martin Institute Professor of Engineering and affiliate professor of Public Policy at the University of Maryland, College Park, as well as a Visiting Scholar at the USACE Institute of Water Resources. He recently chaired the InterAgency Levee Policy Review Committee for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He has further served this nation as the Presidential appointee to the Mississippi River Commission, the American Heritage Rivers Advisory Committee, and as Secretary of the International Joint Commission. He also led the White House Interagency Floodplain Management Review Committee to assess the causes of the 1993 Midwest floods, resulting in the resourceful policy report, "Sharing the Challenge: Floodplain Management in the 21st Century". A recent past president of the American Water Resources Association, he is considered by many to be our nation's leading authority in water resources policy.

Frequently called upon by Congress as expert witness on issues surrounding floods, levees, watershed management, natural and beneficial functions, and other water resources issues, his biography is a true testament to his continual exemplary service to the nation. He is highly esteemed at an international level and is often asked to lecture and consult in those arenas. Even more notable and unique is that Galloway has a vast network of support and respect among the various communities which constitute the Corps' major stakeholder groups, including local and state government entities, non-profit organizations, environmental organizations, private sector professionals, and other Federal agencies.

13,000 members & 27 state chapters dedicated to reducing flood losses in the nation.

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During a 38-year career in the military, he served in various positions in the U.S. and overseas, retiring in 1995 as a Brigadier General. We understand some might be concerned about Gerry's close association with the Corps of Engineers and his independence in overseeing this agency. However, he is so much more than a retired Army officer – he is trusted and highly respected among all professionals in the field of water resources; in fact, his last job in the military as Dean at the United States Military Academy is a testament to his capabilities and respect in academia. We strongly believe his previous inner working knowledge of the Corps will be a strength in this position, and that the stature he has gained in the national community these past thirteen years in public service demonstrate his innate abilities to work for the public good. In that aspect, his record indeed speaks for itself.

We realize you are confronted with many challenges. We assert that the appointment of Professor Gerald Galloway to Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, will provide the necessary vigorous guidance to help our nation avoid preventable mistakes in relation to water resources and natural disasters. We respectfully request your careful consideration of this matter, and we would welcome the opportunity to further interact with the transition team if you so desire.

Most sincerely,

Al W. Goodman, Jr., CFM
ASFPM Chair

Larry A. Larson, PE, CFM
ASFPM Executive Director

Cc: Ruchi Bhowmik