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DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

January 24, 2014

Mr. Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate:

I write to share my concerns surrounding the implementation of new flood zone maps impacting many coastal communities across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. While flood maps are important to assess risk accurately, there has been considerable confusion about the science behind and implementation of these new maps, which is compounded by the fact that the new maps have vastly expanded the affected geography.

Home and business owners whose properties were not included in a flood zone under the old maps, and in some cases are miles from the shore, have found themselves mapped into the new system and, in extreme cases, are facing skyrocketing insurance premiums due to the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act.

While I continue to urge Congress to address the flood insurance premium increases triggered by the Biggert-Waters reform, we must also re-examine the science behind and process for implementing the new flood zone maps. For example, at the request of Congressman Bill Keating, scientists from University of Massachusetts Dartmouth's School of Marine

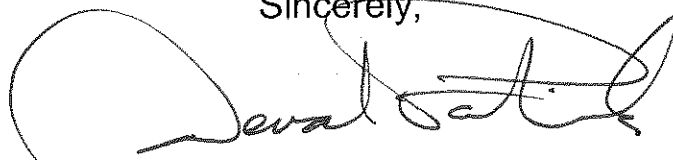
Science and Technology recently conducted an independent review of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) flood maps for the Town of Marshfield. Their findings indicate that FEMA, when establishing the new flood zone, used a model more appropriate for the Pacific Coast than the Atlantic Coast, resulting in incorrect perimeters for the flood zone.

In order to further evaluate the methodology and science of the new flood zone maps across Coastal Massachusetts, as well as to give homeowners and business owners more time to adjust to both the new maps and increased premiums, I urge FEMA to delay further implementation of the new flood zone maps until outstanding questions can be answered.

I also request a meeting between FEMA and my Secretaries of the Executive Offices of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Public Safety and Security, and Housing and Economic Development to further discuss the science behind the new flood maps, the impact on home and business owners, and the process for sharing adequate information with affected individuals and communities.

Thank you for your commitment to this important issue and I look forward to our continued dialogue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval Patrick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

Cc: Massachusetts Congressional Delegation