

Sutter County Taxpayers Association
Honesty, Integrity and Cost Effectiveness in Government
P. O. Box 1232, Yuba City, Ca 95992, 530-673-6562

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the taxpayers and property owners in the County of Sutter, we are writing to express our concerns regarding the "Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012." This legislation, which reauthorized the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) for five years and aimed to ensure the fiscal and administrative health of the NFIP, is already beginning to have serious social and financial implications for our property owners and local government.

The Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 fails to account for the probability of flooding in any given area. This "one size fits all" approach does not take into account that many rural basins in California are protected by levees and flooding is rare. These leveed basins are lumped together with hurricane areas that experience flooding almost on an annual basis. The following statistics illustrate the inherent inconsistency within the NFIP:

Between 1978 and 2011, the NFIP has paid over \$38 billion in flood claims. More than 40% of this money has gone to residents of Louisiana.

There are currently about 45,000 insured repetitive loss structures in the country. These buildings have accounted for nearly one-third of all paid losses.

Sutter County residents have paid over \$29,305,928 into the NFIP over the last 31 years and have only made claims in the amount of \$2,405,648.

It is obvious that there is a disconnect between flood claims and flood insurance premiums. Rural leveed basins should not be shouldering the burden for problems associated with higher risk areas in other parts of our nation.

The Biggert-Waters Act exponentially increases the cost of insurance for agricultural structures. Agricultural operations in many areas will no longer be economically feasible because of the higher flood insurance

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rates. Agriculture is not only a low-density use of the floodplain, but is the safest and most effective use of a floodplain.

Recognition of the valley's extensive farming economy is essential. In order to protect and preserve this important industry, a new agricultural zone is needed for flood mapping and insurance purposes.

We look forward to working with you to repeal or modify those sections of the Biggert-Waters Act which are unnecessary and damaging to our agricultural operations in the Central Valley. If you would like additional information, please contact Pat Miller at 530-673-6562.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Patricia A. Miller

President

cc:U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer

Congressman Doug LaMalfa

Congressman John Garamendi

Congressman Jeb Hensarling, Chairman, House Financial Services Committee

Senator Tim Johnson, Chairman, United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs

California State Senator Jim Nielsen