

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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May 8, 2008

The Honorable R. David Paulison
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Paulison:

Organizations and functions under your direction are categorized as high risk programs by the Government Accountability Office (GAO). GAO has found that the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is at high risk, principally due to debt owed to the Department of the Treasury to cover flood claims from the 2005 hurricanes. The NFIP was designated by GAO as being at high risk in March 2006.

I am writing to express my concern that comprehensive reform is necessary to stabilize the long-term finances of the NFIP. It is well understood that institutional change is often complex and takes both time and resources to transform these often unwieldy programs. However, strategic planning and budgeting can yield staggering results with disciplined management and oversight. As Administrator, you are uniquely positioned to guide this process.

The FEMA currently has nine reports with multiple issues identified by the GAO that remain outstanding. What actions has FEMA taken to address these issues and achieve removal from the GAO high risk list in January 2009? Your prompt response is greatly appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Sheldon Shoemaker of my staff at (202) 228-6476 if you would like to discuss these concerns or other matters.

Sincerely,



CLAIRE McCASKILL
United States Senator