

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 18, 2019

The Honorable Peter T. Gaynor  
Acting Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C St., SW  
Washington, DC 20024

RE: Cumberland County and York County, Maine, Community Appeals of FEMA  
Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps

Dear Acting Administrator Gaynor:

We are writing in regard to preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps released by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for York and Cumberland Counties, Maine. Multiple cities and towns in these counties have contacted us with the concern that these maps do not accurately reflect the risk of floods in their communities.

These communities have filed alternate maps which they believe are more accurate, but FEMA has rejected these alternate maps due to technical errors in the supporting data. Given the importance of properly-priced flood insurance to homes and businesses in these communities, we believe that every effort should be made to ensure that the flood maps that are ultimately put in place by FEMA are scientifically and technically correct.

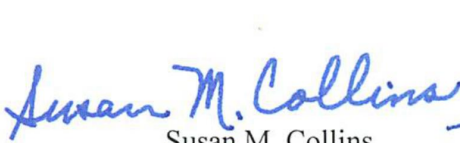
At least one community in both York and Cumberland counties has requested a review of FEMA's determination through the Scientific Resolution Panel (SRP) process. We understand that the SRP process could potentially take up to six months to resolve, and that FEMA will need to await the findings of the SRPs before issuing a Letter of Final Determination from which the communities may appeal. Furthermore, we understand that FEMA's governing statutes and regulations may provide a process by which alternate maps incorporating technical corrections to FEMA's current flood maps could be considered, potentially before the Letter of Final Determination is issued. If FEMA approves these revisions in a timely fashion, it is our understanding that the communities could then seek similar revisions to FEMA's final Flood Insurance Rate Maps, to ensure that properties in these communities are not subject to dramatic changes in flood insurance premiums while the flood maps are being finalized.

We ask that FEMA provide guidance to the communities on such a process, and how it may be used to minimize disruption to property owners in these communities.

We appreciate your consideration of this request, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please notify [REDACTED] when a final

decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress