

Oklahoma  
Floodplain  
Managers  
Association

P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101-8101



March 24, 2010

**Subject: Legislative Alert for Floodplain Administrators**

Dear Local Floodplain Administrator:

An important purpose of OFMA is speaking with one voice. With this purpose in mind it is my job to alert you to legislation that could impact your floodplain management program. Senate Bill 1838, if passed, will amend the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act by removing Section 1604, Item 4. ***The establishment and charging of reasonable fees, not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500), for services provided by the Board, county commissioners and municipalities in the administration of their responsibilities pursuant to the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act.***

As I understand, the title has been struck and it has passed out of the Senate and now is in the House. Removal of this language from the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act takes away the statutory authority for "Post-80" communities to charge for permit applications, inspections, permits, certificates of occupancy and flood zone determinations as well as other services you might provide. In other words, local programs will have no legal basis to charge fees. If these local programs have no way to recover their costs, how will the program be administered? I believe it is clear that a significant reduction in funding will compromise our ability to protect our citizens and provide them the benefits afforded by the NFIP, including the ability to purchase flood insurance under the NFIP as opposed to paying much higher market rates.

Several county floodplain managers have expressed concern about this legislation and the impact it could have on their local program. There are approximately 88 "Post-80" communities in Oklahoma that this bill could impact if passed. Of these 88 communities, 52 are counties with 35 communities being either a city or town.

If you are the FPA in a "Post-80" community, I strongly recommend that you investigate this proposed legislation and decide for yourself how this legislation may impact your floodplain management program. This letter is being sent to all OFMA members and I urge those of you who are not directly affected by this legislation to consider the impact that it will have on your OFMA colleagues.

Sincerely,

Ellen W. Stevens, Ph.D., P.E., CFM  
Chair, Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Assoc.