

# FLORIDA CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



56 CSS/DEN  
Avon Park AFR, FL 33825-5000

15 November 1991

The Honorable Bob Graham  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Graham:

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society appreciates the opportunity to express its support for the adoption of S. 1650, the National Flood Insurance, Mitigation, and Erosion Management Act of 1991. The effective reforms of the National Flood Insurance Program contained within S. 1650 are crucial for protecting critical habitats of many coastal wildlife species, many of which are designated as either threatened or endangered species. It is also vital for protecting taxpayer dollars, improving and maintaining the health of the Florida shoreline, and providing for public safety.

The National Flood Insurance Program has failed to meet its mandated goal of discouraging development in floodplains for too many years. This financial "safety net" for coastal development has played a major role in the degradation of Florida's coastal environment.

The financial status of the NFIP is also troublesome for Floridians. The Flood Insurance Fund has certainly been depleted by the cost of flood damages following the recent coastal storms in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. Florida's heavily developed coasts are a large target waiting for a hurricane, which could result in overwhelming property damage and the loss of many human lives.

S. 1650 would establish programs that would improve the NFIP's tenuous financial picture. S. 1650 would also help Florida communities find ways to minimize flood damages, including protection of floodplains and other coastal areas, which, in addition to their flood damage reduction benefits, are environmentally critical areas. The coastal erosion management program established by S. 1650 would help Florida manage our eroding coastal areas wisely, and is critical to the success of the reform.

As governor of Florida, you were an outstanding leader in coastal management policies. We would welcome this same degree of consideration when it comes to reform of the National Flood Insurance Program. We urge you to

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support S. 1650 for the NFIP policy holders in Florida and the incomparable Florida coastal ecosystem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald R. Progulsk, Jr.", written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Donald R. Progulsk, Jr.

President

cc. Executive Board

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