



State of
Delaware



State of
New Jersey



State of
New York



Commonwealth
Pennsylvania

September 21, 2006

Carol R. Collier
Executive Director
Delaware River Basin Commission
25 State Police Drive
P.O. Box 7360
West Trenton, New Jersey 08628-0360

Dear Executive Director Collier:

The severe flooding this past June along the Delaware River highlighted our continued need to do more to protect our citizens' health, safety and welfare. Individually, the Basin states can move forward with policies and regulations to reduce and mitigate the impacts of flooding, but we believe that through coordinated effort on a regional basis, we can do more to reduce flood loss within the Basin than we could accomplish acting separately, on our own.

The Delaware River Basin Commission is the obvious vehicle for developing flood loss reduction and flood mitigation plans that cannot be accomplished by any single state or local government but that require a holistic watershed approach. As much as any time since the Commission was created in 1961, now seems an appropriate moment for coordinated action through the DRBC.

In our capacity as Commissioners, we hereby authorize and request that the DRBC staff the formation of an interstate task force to develop a set of recommended measures for alleviating and mitigating flooding impacts along the Delaware River and its tributaries. We ask that the Commission staff provide both coordination and technical support to this group. We direct that the measures to be evaluated by the task force include the development of a basin-wide flood management operating plan for the Basin's existing reservoirs. Such a plan would be a counterpart to the Commission's drought management plan. We seek task force recommendations for coordinated basin-wide flood mitigation and flood loss reduction initiatives.

Because any operational changes proposed must be backed by good scientific information, we also commit to immediately provide funding for the Flood Analysis Model for the Delaware Basin, that is needed to support this effort. We offer the full cooperation of the state emergency management and environmental agencies in this effort. Finally, we feel it is incumbent to the citizens we represent that a preliminary action plan with recommendations be completed by the end of the year to enable implementation measures to be started as early as possible in 2007.

We look forward to working with you and your staff to address this serious issue in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



Governor Ruth Ann Minner
Delaware



Governor Jon S. Corzine
New Jersey



Governor George E. Pataki
New York



Governor Edward G. Rendell
Pennsylvania

c: General Grisoli
Mayor Bloomberg