



LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER
U.S. SENATOR *for* DELAWARE

Advocates from Across the Nation Support Blunt Rochester's FLOOD Act Introduction

Here's What They're Saying

National Association of Counties

"Counties play a critical role in building flood-resilient infrastructure across our nation's rural communities," **said Matthew Chase, Executive Director of the National Association of Counties.** "The FLOOD Act provides targeted technical assistance and financial support for watershed resilience and flood protection, helping county leaders better protect their communities. Counties urge Congress to swiftly pass this bipartisan legislation."

Farm Aid

"Farm Aid endorses the FLOOD Act because farmers and local governments need every available tool to respond to evolving environmental conditions and strengthen farm resilience. Farmers are increasingly impacted by more frequent and severe storms, and this legislation will help reduce flood risks and restore floodplains," **said Hank Tremblay, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Farm Aid**

American Rivers Action Fund

"We thank Senators Jim Justice and Lisa Blunt Rochester and Representatives Jimmy Panetta and Randy Feenstra for introducing the FLOOD Act and recognizing the value of protecting both people and rivers through smart conservation investments," **said Tom Kiernan, President, American Rivers Action Fund.** "Floodplain restoration and easements are proven tools that support landowners while conserving flood-prone land. These USDA programs store floodwaters, improve water quality, create wildlife habitat, and help rivers reconnect with their natural floodplains—making communities more resilient to increasingly severe floods and storms."

American Sustainable Business Network

"Rural communities, farmers, and local businesses are facing growing risks from flooding and aging infrastructure. The FLOOD Act is a strong bipartisan step toward strengthening resilience, modernizing watershed infrastructure, and supporting economic opportunity in rural communities. American Sustainable Business Network supports investments that are good for businesses, farmers, and communities alike," **said Liza LaManna, Manager of Agriculture and Water Policy, American Sustainable Business Network**

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

“As the U.S. faces increasing climate risks and more frequent extreme precipitation, communities need stronger tools to prepare for flooding. We strongly support the FLOOD Act because it provides states, local governments, Tribal Nations, and territories with the resources they need to strengthen flood resilience on an expedited timeline,” **said Jeff Diamond, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy**

Iowa Environmental Council

“Iowa’s rural communities and farmers are experiencing more frequent and intense flooding, increasing costs, reducing yields, and damaging critical infrastructure,” **said Cody Smith, Director of Climate Initiatives at the Iowa Environmental Council**. “The FLOOD Act is a key step toward helping communities and farms better prepare for weather extremes through stronger planning, strategic infrastructure investments, and streamlined permitting.”

West Virginia Rivers Coalition

"Flood warnings save lives, but they don't stop floods. The FLOOD Act invests in proactive solutions—restoring floodplains and strengthening watershed infrastructure before disaster strikes. That's a smarter, more cost-effective way to protect West Virginia's communities," **said Jennie Smith, Executive Director, West Virginia Rivers Coalition**

Coastal Prairie Conservancy

“Flood resilience begins long before floodwaters rise. Conserving and restoring natural floodplains and working landscapes reduces downstream flooding, improves water quality, supports agricultural productivity, and strengthens rural economies. The Coastal Prairie Conservancy, a nonprofit land trust that has conserved more than 36,000 acres of wetlands coastal prairie, farms and ranches in southeast Texas, is pleased to support the bipartisan FLOOD Act and its emphasis on preventive, nature-based watershed solutions,” **said Mary Anne Piacentini, President and CEO, Coastal Prairie Conservancy**

Center for Rural Affairs

"To build flood resiliency and help rural communities mitigate flooding, we must work directly with local farmers and landowners throughout a watershed," said Cynthia Farmer, Center for Rural Affairs (CFRA) Iowa State Policy Manager. "That's why we support integrating Emergency Watershed Program measures into the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, giving producers more opportunities to implement projects that reduce flood risk and strengthen rural community preparedness," **said Cynthia Farmer, Iowa State Policy Manager**

Socially Responsible Agriculture Project (SRAP)

“Socially Responsible Agriculture Project (SRAP) supports the FLOOD Act to encourage watershed resilience in regions with industrial livestock operations. Flooding that impacts CAFOs can cause significant negative downstream impacts to public health, the environment, personal property, and local economies. The FLOOD Act provides safeguards to support responsible watershed management that can mitigate these downstream impacts,” **said Cole Dickerson Water Rangers Program Manager**.

Indiana Conservation Voters

“Indiana’s farmers manage nearly 14.6 million acres of farmland, and 94 percent of Indiana farms are family-owned or operated. These producers are on the front lines of flooding and extreme weather, and they need tools that help them recover while making their land and communities more resilient. Indiana already leads the nation in cover crop adoption, and voluntary floodplain and watershed solutions build on that conservation leadership to reduce disaster costs, protect water quality, conserve habitat, and keep Indiana’s working lands productive,” **said Desi Rybolt, Conservation Policy Director of Indiana Conservation Voters.** “We are proud to support this legislation because it offers a practical, cost-effective way to protect Indiana’s farms, and families from flooding.”

Extreme Weather Survivors

“Flooding and extreme weather are putting enormous strain on families, farmers, and taxpayers. By supporting voluntary flood mitigation, watershed restoration, and resilient land management, this bill helps communities reduce future damage instead of relying only on costly disaster recovery after the fact. Extreme Weather Survivors supports this legislation because investing in resilience is a practical, responsible way to protect people, property, and local economies,” **said Chris Kocher, co-founder and co-executive director of Extreme Weather Survivors (EWS).**

Delaware Department of Agriculture

“All my life as a farmer, we as a nation have been unprepared for disasters that we know will happen, responding in an ad hoc manner with funding that is usually too little, too late. Financial assistance has been appreciated by those who received it, but it is rarely enough to fully mitigate the detrimental impact. Each time, a few farms fold under the financial pressure. We needed this bill decades ago. It is essential now and we should insist upon its passage,” **said Wm. Donald Clifton II, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture.**

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

“This bill is good for farmers and good for clean water. As stronger storms and intense flooding become the new normal, the FLOOD Act helps farmers by investing in projects that increase farms' resilience to extreme weather, provide economic benefits, reduce pollution, and create wildlife habitat. This will protect people, property, and rivers and streams,” **said Keisha Sedlacek, Senior Policy Director, Chesapeake Bay Foundation.**

American Flood Coalition Action

“When disasters strike, rural communities often wait months to begin recovery because the USDA disaster programs they depend on lack funding. That's why AFCA strongly supports the

bipartisan, bicameral Farmers' Lifeline to Overcoming Disasters Act. We thank Senators Blunt Rochester and Justice and Representatives Panetta and Feenstra for championing this important legislation to give USDA the ability to quickly get money to disaster-impacted communities to drive faster recoveries,” **said Julie Seger, Federal Advocacy and Policy Director, American Flood Coalition Action (AFCA).**

Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation

“Recent climatic events impacting agricultural production and fish and wildlife habitat conservation call for pragmatic solutions,” **said Taylor Schmitz, Senior Vice President and COO of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation.** “Voluntary conservation easements provide significant benefits for fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and flood mitigation. By including the Emergency Watershed Program as a covered program under the Farm Bill’s increasingly important Regional Conservation Partnership Program, the bipartisan FLOOD Act will help expand these conservation efforts, and CSF commends this commonsense approach.”

The Nature Conservancy

“This legislation would create a commonsense, cost effective and proactive tool for reducing flood impacts before disaster strikes. Communities across the country face growing flood risks and mounting recovery costs related to floods. The FLOOD Act would benefit American farmers, taxpayers, and local communities. Expanding a successful conservation partnership program to help secure voluntary floodplain easements in high-risk areas is a practical and timely solution. These easements can support both healthy ecosystems and productive agriculture. Investing in natural infrastructure before disasters happen is one of the most effective ways to protect communities, safeguard working lands, and reduce taxpayer-funded disaster recovery costs. We thank Senators Blunt Rochester and Justice, and Representatives Panetta and Feenstra for their bipartisan leadership in advancing this forward-looking solution,” **said Jenny Conner, Director of Legislative Affairs for The Nature Conservancy.**

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