



February 26, 2014

Iowa Flood Mitigation Board

Honorable Members of the Iowa Flood Mitigation Board:

Iowa is a land of many rivers and streams. In recent years we have all learned the dual-edged nature of our rivers and streams: they offer unique beauty and recreational opportunities; and devastating damage to property and loss to homeowners and businesses when they flood. The Iowa General Assembly established the Flood Mitigation Program, via Chapter 418 of the Code of Iowa, as a tool to support local efforts to decrease the risk of flooding in our communities, and to mitigate the impacts of flooding.

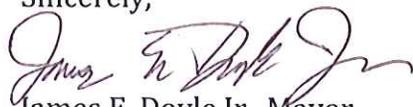
Ely submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to HSEMD for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant funding for the Fuhrmeister/State Street project in response to a 2013 Federal disaster declaration. Estimated cost of this project is \$109,438, which may seem a small amount of money compared to the needs of larger cities like Cedar Rapids and Coralville. It is a significant amount of money for Ely and our 1,766 residents, especially when our other needs and priorities are factored in to the picture. HSEMD determined Hazard Mitigation Grant funding was not appropriate for Ely's project, which leaves Ely in the position of having to address this situation using only local money. I expect the same is true for dozens of smaller cities in Iowa who seek to improve their community by decreasing the ravaging effects of flooding.

Funding the Iowa Flood Mitigation Grant Program will provide the financial energy needed for smaller cities to effectively manage flood waters and mitigate flooding. A General Fund allocation to the program will support local efforts to address flooding issues for cities that do not generate significant sales tax proceeds, and are stretched financially. I understand Ely's Furmeister/State Street project is included among others for which HSEMD received FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant applications to illustrate the need for flood mitigation and prevention. I know our project is not guaranteed to be funded through the general component of the Flood Mitigation Program. I also know funding the Flood Mitigation Program will make many other crucial mitigation projects reality, regardless of whether the City of Ely receives grant money.

The City of Ely of strongly encourages the Iowa Flood Mitigation Board to recommend that the Iowa General Assembly fund the Flood Mitigation Program in the amount needed to assist cities throughout Iowa, such as Ely, to minimize the threat of future flood disasters. Ely's project will significantly lower the risk of damage to homes and public property in Ely. Funding the Flood Mitigation Program will mitigate the ravages of flooding, and protect people throughout Iowa.

Thank you for your consideration, and your service to everyone in Iowa.

Sincerely,



James E. Doyle Jr., Mayor