



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
JEFF ATWATER  
STATE OF FLORIDA

September 26, 2013

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
United States Senate  
716 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

Thank you for your response to my request that Congress take immediate action to spare Floridians from the devastating rate hikes forthcoming as result of reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program. However, I am very concerned by your reference to the "current state of gridlock in Congress caused by a small minority" that is preventing corrective legislation from being passed and your indication that you need Governor Scott and I to convince Republicans to get this done.

We are facing these rate hikes not because of a small minority that helped pass a bill. Rather, a large majority in Washington voted for the present legislation, doing so without warning their constituents of its consequences. In fact, not a single democrat in the House or Senate voted against the current policy that is the source of the rate hikes. The small minority when this policy passed were Republicans who voted against the bill.

Before you asked that I reach out to my fellow Republicans, I had already made it clear to every member of Florida's congressional delegation, Republican and Democrat alike, that the scheduled changes will bring significant financial hardship to unsuspecting Florida families already facing economic challenges.

Given Florida's status as a donor state that has paid much more in premiums than what has been collected in claims reimbursements, I hope you and your colleagues will sympathize with Florida families and act with urgency to correct a harmful policy. I will continue my outreach to Florida's delegation, and I stand ready to assist in any additional manner that any member of our delegation might find helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff Atwater".

Jeff Atwater  
Chief Financial Officer

c: Governor Rick Scott