

Dear Candidate,

I am writing as the spokesperson for the Comfort Floodplain Coalition, an ad hoc, informal group of stakeholders in the Comfort area who are concerned with the continuing hazard of flooding in our area. Over the past several years to raise public awareness of the flood problem the Coalition has sponsored three well-attended public meetings and collected over 300 names on a petition asking for flood mitigation efforts from the county courts of Kendall and Kerr Counties. As a political candidate and potential office holder I envision that you will want to be aware of the issues affecting your district.

The CFC has three proposals that we would like you to consider and support. The first is structural flood mitigation facilities in the watersheds above Comfort. We propose diverting creek flow upstream of Comfort into storage reservoir(s), followed by release at a rate the river can accept may provide the optimum "benefit to cost" solution. Surplus water could also be pumped into the underlying aquifer. Secondary benefits could be recreational use of the reservoirs and vital recharging of local water resources.

The second relates to improving the drainage capabilities of Cypress Creek, North Creek, and Dry Creek. Over time silt and deadfall build up in the floodway of the creeks resulting in impeded flow when the debris piles up on bridges. Clearing the channels on the upstream side of Comfort for a short distance would expedite getting water out of the built-up area. It should be noted that FEMA offers grants for such "minor" projects.

Finally, we would like to have state-of-the-art flood warning equipment on Cypress Creek above Comfort. At the present time the only way to have early warning is to physically watch the creek rise or to be alerted by the Comfort Volunteer Fire Department. Since 1990 Cypress Creek has been out of its banks three times: 1998, 2002, and 2007. In 2002 the area reported 9" of rain daily for 5 straight days. The CVFD alerted the residents of Broadway and Water St. to evacuate each morning at 5am. In 2007, while Comfort only recorded a little over 3 inches the Cypress Creek watershed in Kerr County measured over 15 inches in little over an hour. Comfort experienced flooding on Water St. Broadway, and Main Street. There was no alert given to the residents in this incident. With an early warning system residents would be given time to make and execute evacuation plans. Since the majority of Cypress Creek lies in Kerr County, there must be cooperation between Kendall and Kerr counties. We understand that the solutions we seek are beyond the capabilities of any single person to accomplish but we would ask that if your campaign is successful that you would take the initiative with the appropriate governmental agencies for grant funding.

I would welcome your written response to this letter with the understanding that it will be disseminated to the Coalition email list and posted on our website which is [www.comfortflood.org](http://www.comfortflood.org). If you would like a face-to-face meeting with representatives of the CFC please contact my office at 830-995-3992 or email [info@comfortflood.org](mailto:info@comfortflood.org). In the meantime, good luck with your campaign and thanks for making the effort to improve our community through public service.

Sincerely,

Emmanuel "Mani" Flatten