

Helps reduce costs for local governments

Washington, DC – Last night, the House passed a Walz amendment to flood insurance legislation that would reduce costs for local governments.

Over the past decade, it has become increasingly expensive for state and local governments to re-certify their locally-controlled levees to comply with National Flood Insurance Program regulations. The Walz amendment would allow communities to hire the Army Corps of Engineers to certify the levees in certain cases, at a lower cost to local governments and taxpayers.

“Our state and local governments have enough to worry about without unnecessarily shouldering higher costs to certify their levees,” said Walz. “This amendment would give our communities more cost-effective options.”

This issue was brought to Walz’s attention by local officials when the Mankato-North Mankato levy needed to be recertified in 2009. They could have saved tens of thousands of dollars had they been able to use the Army Corps. Current law prevented them from doing so, which is what the Walz amendment overturns.

The amendment was supported by the National Association of Counties, and the National League of Cities, and the National Association of Towns and Townships.