2.2 ASSURANCES

The State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan meets the enhanced requirements of Section 409 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988, 42 United States Code Sections 5121 and following (commonly referred to as the Stafford Act - Public Law 93-288). Additionally, this plan meets the planning requirements of 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 78 (Flood Mitigation Assistance).

It is intended that this plan also meet the requirements of the Section 322 of the Stafford Act which requires that States, as a condition of receiving federal disaster mitigation funds, have a mitigation plan in place that describes the planning process for identifying hazards, risk and vulnerabilities, identifies and prioritizes mitigation actions, encourages the development of local mitigation and provides technical support for these efforts. In addition, the Act requires local and tribal governments to also have mitigation plans as a condition of receiving disaster mitigation funds.

The development and implementation of this strategy is authorized and/or required by the following state statutes:

Chapter 5502, Ohio Revised Code (specifically Section 5502.22 establishes the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and requires plan development.

Chapter 5502, Ohio Revised Code (specifically Sections 5502.26, 5502.27, and 5502.271 require the establishment of county emergency management agencies and plan development.

The final draft of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan will be submitted to OMPAT for review and approval. The GAR will provide a copy of the final plan and an accompanying letter to each agency/organization head that will have an implementing role in the plan, requesting their concurrence/approval.

Lastly, by inclusion of the following letter from Governor Bob Taft, the state plan is hereby adopted by the State of Ohio under the executive powers of the Governor.
The primary role of the government is to provide for the welfare of its citizens. The welfare of Ohio citizens is never more threatened than during disasters. The goal of emergency management is to provide for mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery actions that ensure public welfare is restored and preserved. The State of Ohio Enhanced Mitigation Plan is an integral element of that emergency management effort.

The State of Ohio Enhanced Mitigation Plan provides a comprehensive framework for statewide disaster mitigation. It identifies the risks and vulnerabilities of the state to multiple hazards and identified goals and strategies to address those risks and vulnerabilities.

All departments of the state government cooperate with the Ohio Emergency Management Agency in the planning process that provides an effective framework for the implementation of the identified strategies. State departments have demonstrated repeatedly that they can work together to achieve the common goal of disaster mitigation in an effort to reduce the risks and vulnerabilities Ohio faces to natural disasters.

The State of Ohio Enhanced Mitigation Plan ensures consistency with current policy guidance and describes the interrelationship with other levels of government. The plan will continue to evolve, reflecting lessons learned from actual experiences in disasters and ongoing state planning. I am confident that it will serve as a basis for improving coordination and strengthening relationships among all or our emergency management partners on the state, federal, local and private levels.

Therefore, in recognition of the emergency management responsibilities of state government with the authority vested in me as the Chief Officer of the State of Ohio, I do hereby promulgate the State of Ohio Enhanced Mitigation Plan.

______________________________________________
Governor of the State of Ohio

______________________________________________
Date