



September 13, 2017

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
331 Hart SOB  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein,

RE: National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) Reauthorization Act of 2017

Dear Senator Feinstein,

As the governing body of the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization of the Portland, Oregon, metropolitan region, we write in strong support of NEHRP reauthorization that will continue and advance critical earthquake hazard mitigation research, outreach and implementation in support of local community seismic resilience efforts. The Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) is a bi-state partnership of local and regional government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private-sector stakeholders representing the Portland Metropolitan Region (PMR) collaborating to increase the region's resiliency to disasters, including earthquakes.

This legislation explicitly authorizes the U.S. Geological Survey to issue earthquake early warnings. In our respective cities and states earthquakes are inevitable; and yet despite state and federal action, our Nation lags behind Japan and Mexico in developing an earthquake early warning system. Such systems save lives by alerting residents to seek shelter and protect sensitive infrastructure during earthquakes. It is imperative that U.S. Geological Survey be given all necessary authority to advance the implementation of earthquake early warning. Tens of millions more people along the West Coast will be safer once this system is fully deployed.

This legislation advances work already being done to address the safety of our buildings and critical infrastructure by focusing on post-earthquake re-occupancy and recovery times. Taking steps in advance of our next major earthquake to make our buildings stronger and our critical infrastructure fortified is a critical component of our seismic resilience.

This legislation also encourages improved coordination and data sharing that will be paramount when the next major earthquake hits.

For these reasons, we strongly support the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2017. Thank you for co-sponsoring this legislation with Senators Murkowski and Gardner. We strongly encourage Congress to pass this legislation as soon as possible to ensure communities have additional tools and resources to advance their seismic resilience.

Sincerely,

**The Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization Policy Committee**

**Approved by:**

Councilor Jeanne Stewart, Clark County, Washington (Chair)

Councilor Kathryn Harrington, Metro Regional Government (Vice Chair)

Mayor Ted Wheeler, City of Portland, Oregon

Councilor Lacey Beaty, City of Beaverton, Oregon

Councilor Karylenn Echols, City of Gresham, Oregon

Councilor Rich Allen, City of Troutdale, Oregon

Councilor Bill Turlay, City of Vancouver, Washington

Commission Chair Jim Bernard, Clackamas County, Oregon

Commissioner Margaret Magruder, Columbia County, Oregon

Commissioner Sharon Meieran, Multnomah County, Oregon

Mr. Vince Granato (COO), Port of Portland

In addition:

Mayor Denny Doyle, City of Beaverton, Oregon