

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 22, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

As you prepare your Fiscal Year 2016 Budget for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), we strongly urge you to request increased funding for USGS's earthquake-related programs, including an additional \$16.1 million for the development and operation of a West Coast Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) System.

After the recent magnitude 6.0 earthquake in Napa, California that killed one person, injured more than 300 people, and caused an estimated \$300 million in damages, as well as the September magnitude 4.0 earthquake that struck the Puget Sound region, we are once again reminded of how important it is that the United States has a robust earthquake early warning system.

Earthquake Early Warning is proven technology that is already fully operational in countries like Japan and Mexico. USGS, in conjunction with the California Institute of Technology, the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Washington, and the University of Oregon, is currently working to adapt the technology for the West Coast of the United States and has developed a prototype system for test users along the West Coast.

During the earthquake in Napa County, test users at UC Berkeley received ten seconds of warning, and those in San Francisco and San Jose received even more. This is enough warning to take steps necessary to prevent casualties and mitigate destruction, including slowing or stopping trains and cars; turning off supplies of oil, natural gas, and chemicals; securing large manufacturing equipment; stopping elevators and opening their doors; and securing sensitive computer data.

The effectiveness of EEW largely depends on the number and placement of sensors to ensure that there is adequate coverage wherever an earthquake may hit—and this requires additional resources. Congress recognizes the value of this system and has demonstrated its commitment to providing additional resources for EEW by including additional funding in the House and Senate Fiscal Year 2015 Interior Appropriations bills.

Therefore, we urge you to request in your Budget at least an additional \$16.1 million for the development of this system so that the West Coast will be prepared for the next catastrophic earthquake. This is proven technology that will save lives and reduce the economic impact of an earthquake; it simply needs to be properly funded.

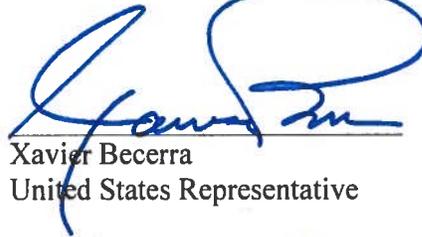
Thank you for considering our request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us or have your staff contact Josh Esquivel in Senator Dianne Feinstein's Office (joshua_esquivel@feinstein.senate.gov) or Courtney Fogwell in Representative Adam Schiff's Office (courtney.fogwell@mail.house.gov).

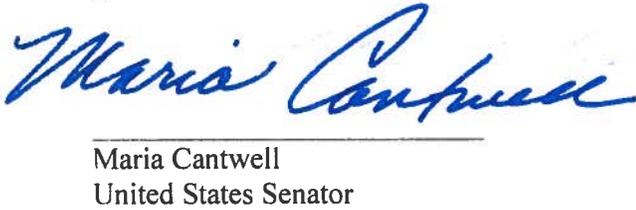
Sincerely,


Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator


Adam Schiff
United States Representative

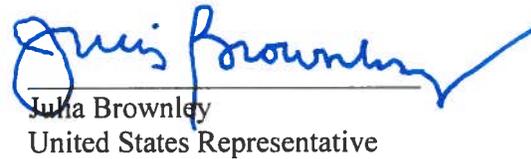

Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

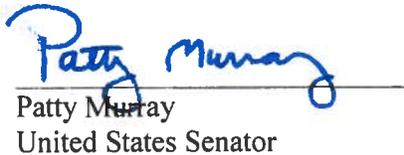

Xavier Becerra
United States Representative


Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

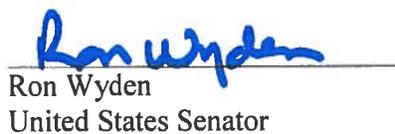

Suzanne Bonamici
United States Representative

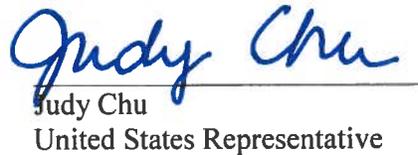

Jeff Merkley
United States Senator


Julia Brownley
United States Representative


Patty Murray
United States Senator


Tony Cárdenas
United States Representative


Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Judy Chu
United States Representative



Jim Costa
United States Representative



Peter DeFazio
United States Representative



Anna G. Eshoo
United States Representative



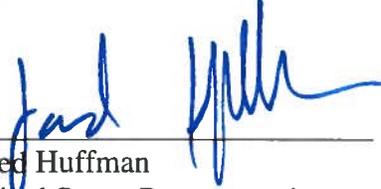
Sam Farr
United States Representative



Janice Hahn
United States Representative



Mike Honda
United States Representative



Jared Huffman
United States Representative



Barbara Lee
United States Representative



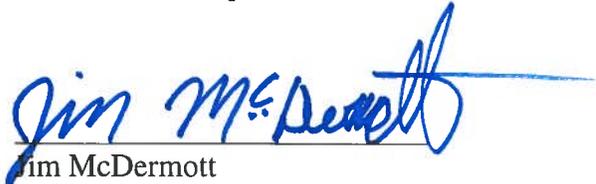
Zoe Lofgren
United States Representative



Alan Lowenthal
United States Representative



Betty McCollum
United States Representative



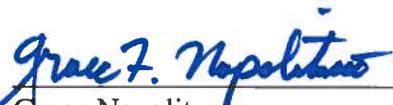
Jim McDermott
United States Representative



Jerry McNerney
United States Representative



George Miller
United States Representative



Grace Napolitano
United States Representative

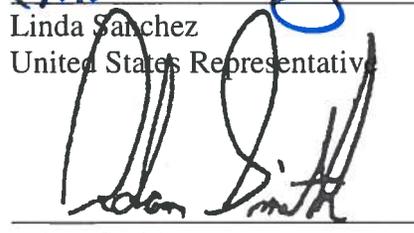


Scott Peters
United States Representative


Lucille Roybal-Allard
United States Representative


Linda Sanchez
United States Representative


Brad Sherman
United States Representative

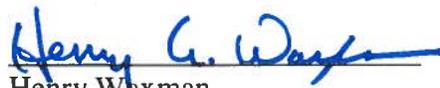

Adam Smith
United States Representative


Jackie Speier
United States Representative


Eric Swalwell
United States Representative


Mike Thompson
United States Representative


Maxine Waters
United States Representative


Henry Waxman
United States Representative

cc: The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Director of the Office of Management and Budget

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior