

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 2016

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies Appropriations
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

As you craft the Fiscal Year 2017 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you provide the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) with \$16.1 million for the construction, operation and maintenance of a West Coast Earthquake Early Warning System.

The USGS, in collaboration with Caltech, UC Berkeley, the University of Washington, and the University of Oregon has developed an Earthquake Early Warning system that detects waves radiating from the epicenter of a quake and would provide people with several to tens of seconds of warning in California, and up to few minutes in Washington and Oregon through their phones, computers and other media. With advanced notice, people can take cover, automated systems can be triggered to slow down trains and manage the power grid, doctors can pause surgeries, and more. The technology has been tested and proven to work effectively.

FEMA has estimated that earthquakes cost the United States, averaged over the long term, more than \$5 billion a year. This common-sense investment will save lives, protect businesses, and could make a real difference in more rapid recovery for local communities, the federal government and the economy as a whole.


Support in both Congress and the Administration has grown over the past few years. In his FY2017 budget, the President requested the highest level for the system yet – \$8.2 million, and we appreciate the Committee's support for the system in recent years.

While we cannot predict when and where the next major earthquake will hit, we must do all we can to prepare ourselves so that we can mitigate the injuries, destruction, and chaos as much as possible. We appreciate your consideration of our request, and we look forward to working with you.


Sincerely,



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
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Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
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Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



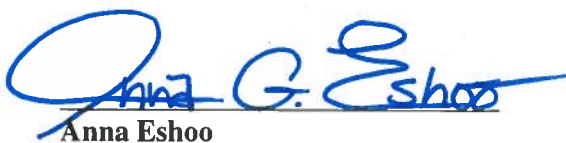
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



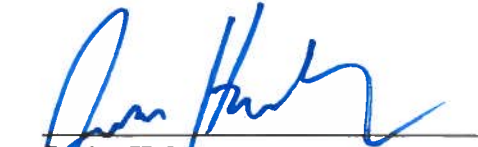
Mark DeSaulnier
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Jared Huffman
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Raul Ruiz
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Loretta Sanchez
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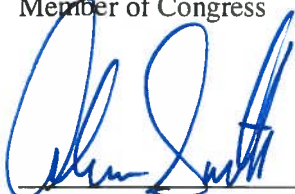
Linda T. Sánchez
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Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
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Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



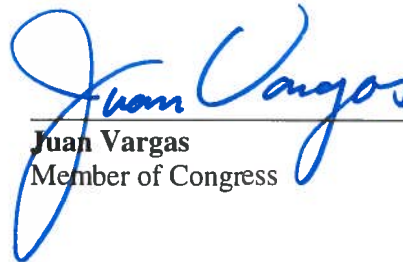
Eric Swalwell
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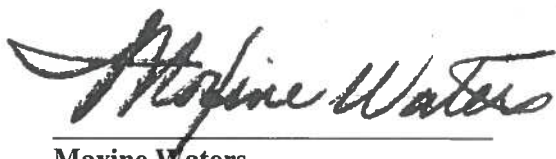
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
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Juan Vargas
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Maxine Waters
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