



June 4, 2025

The Honorable David Valadao
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Costa
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Valadao and Costa:

On behalf of the Seismological Society of America (SSA), thank you for your bipartisan leadership in advancing H.R. 3168 to reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP).

Earthquakes pose a significant threat to millions of Americans. NEHRP strengthens our nation's ability to reduce risk from these events and builds upon decades of successful research, coordination and preparedness. This critically important legislation unites the collaborative expertise of federal agencies, including the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Science Foundation and FEMA to develop life-saving research, early warning systems, building codes and risk mitigation strategies.

Many of SSA's nearly 3,000 members work in partnership with these agencies to deepen our understanding of seismic processes and apply those insights to practical challenges in infrastructure safety, emergency preparedness and community resilience. Sharing knowledge and supporting one another's efforts couldn't be more important as the potential for high-impact seismic events is growing, from California's San Andreas Fault to the New Madrid Seismic Zone in the Midwest and areas of emerging seismic risk in the central and eastern U.S.

Reauthorizing NEHRP ensures the continued development of tools such as ShakeAlert, which provides early warning before strong shaking begins—giving emergency responders, infrastructure operators and members of the general public time to take protective action. These warnings can save lives and reduce cascading losses during major earthquakes. NEHRP also supports the development of seismic hazard maps, building standards and engineering guidance that enables safer construction and reduces future disaster costs.

As our nation continues to face increasing exposure to both natural and human-made hazards, NEHRP remains a critical tool in maintaining the nation's global leadership in hazard science and resilience planning. Reauthorizing NEHRP will continue advancing interdisciplinary research that connects geoscience with engineering, public policy and social resilience, all while preparing the next generation of earthquake scientists to carry this work forward in service to the nation.



Passing H.R. 3168 offers Congress a vital opportunity to reaffirm its longstanding, bipartisan commitment to disaster resilience and scientific leadership. SSA thanks you for championing this effort, and our community of scientists and engineers welcomes the opportunity to support your efforts in strengthening this essential program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan L. Bilek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a distinct "L" and "B".

Susan Bilek
President
Seismological Society of America