



June 4, 2025

The Honorable Nick Begich  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Begich:

On behalf of the Seismological Society of America (SSA), thank you for introducing H.R. 3176 to reauthorize the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System. Our members are grateful for your support of volcano monitoring to safeguard our nation.

The National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System provides the coordinated scientific infrastructure needed to monitor the nation's 161 potentially active volcanoes, many of which are located near population centers, transportation hubs and energy infrastructure. More than half of these volcanoes pose a high or very high threat, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

While communities in Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, California and the Pacific Northwest face particular risk, volcanic ash clouds and secondary hazards such as lahars can affect much broader regions, disrupting air traffic, endangering water systems, damaging agriculture and property, and even causing loss of life.

SSA's mission is deeply aligned with the goals of H.R. 3176: reduce these risks through timely detection, data-driven research and public warning of geophysical hazards, including those posed by volcanic activity. It is a mission shared by our nearly 3,000 seismologists, geologists, engineers and hazard mitigation professionals who lend their expertise to academic institutions, national laboratories, federal and state agencies and the private sector.

Federal investment in volcano monitoring is not only a public safety imperative—it is a matter of economic and national security. Volcanic hazards can disable airports, ports and power infrastructure critical to regional economies and military operations. Our nation needs a fully resourced and modernized early warning system that brings together the seismic, geodetic and remote sensing tools that provide accurate, real-time information to emergency managers and the public. This bill supports that system, which also helps scientists better understand magmatic systems, seismic science, eruption dynamics and the cascading hazards associated with volcanic unrest.



Thank you again for your leadership and your commitment to public safety by introducing H.R. 3176. The members of our Society support this important effort to strengthen our nation's capacity to detect, monitor and respond to geologic hazards so that together we can create more resilient communities nationwide.

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" before the last name.

Susan Bilek  
President  
Seismological Society of America