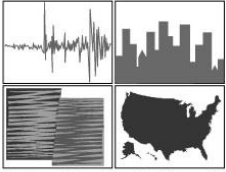


NEHRP Coalition



National Earthquake Hazards
Reduction Program Coalition

November 14, 2011

The Honorable Ben Quayle
Chairman
Technology and Innovation Subcommittee
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Donna Edwards
Ranking Member
Technology and Innovation Subcommittee
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Quayle and Ranking Member Edwards:

On behalf of the nation's earthquake professionals - scientists, engineers, architects, building code officials, and emergency management and response leaders - we wish to thank the Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee for holding a mark-up on November 15th to consider Representative Judy Biggert's bill, the "Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2011". **The Coalition urges the Subcommittee to move forward with reauthorization of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP).**

For More Information:
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www.nehrp.org



The NEHRP Coalition encourages realistic, comprehensive, and affordable measures to reduce the harmful effects of earthquakes nationwide. The Coalition represents the views of over 250,000 scientists, engineers, architects, and emergency response leaders of the earthquake community.

We want to make it clear that the earthquake community stands united in our opinion that the federal government's most effective tool in mitigating the potentially devastating impact of earthquakes is a robust NEHRP. The Coalition remains steadfast in support of a NEHRP that is able to carry out its recently adopted Strategic Plan. This plan lays out a roadmap for a nation that is earthquake-resilient in public safety, economic strength, and national security. With that in mind, the Coalition is concerned about the lower authorization levels in the draft. We fully recognize the fiscal challenges Congress faces, but we remain firm in our belief that a robust NEHRP will not only save lives, but will also mitigate economic loss and save the federal government millions in reduced disaster relief in the years to come. **Specifically, the Coalition urges the Subcommittee to increase authorizations in the draft legislation to at least the FY 2011 appropriated levels of \$7.8 million for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), \$4.1 million for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), \$53.8 million for the National Science Foundation (NSF), and \$61.4 million for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).**

Through NEHRP, the federal government has engaged in seismic monitoring, mapping, research, testing, engineering and related reference materials for building code development, mitigation, and emergency preparedness. NEHRP has served as the backbone for protecting U.S. citizens, their property and the national economy from the devastating effects of large earthquakes. Although NEHRP is well known for its research programs, it is also the source for hundreds of new technologies, maps, design techniques, and standards that are used by design professionals every day to mitigate risks and save lives, protect property, and reduce adverse economic impacts.

Reauthorized by Public Law 108-360 in 2004, the program underwent the most significant changes in its history including a change in leadership, the creation of the Interagency Coordinating Council, and the Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction. These are changes that the community supported and believes have and will continue to pay important dividends for the nation. This authorization expired in October of 2009.

Once again, the Coalition urges the Subcommittee to move forward and reauthorize a robust NEHRP. If the Coalition can be of more assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Martin Hight, the American Society of Civil Engineers' Senior Manager of Government Relations at 202-789-7843 or mhight@asce.org.

cc. The Honorable Ralph Hall, Chairman, Committee on Science, Space and Technology
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, Ranking Member, Committee on Science, Space and Technology
The Honorable Judy Biggert

American Council of Engineering Companies
American Geological Institute
American Geophysical Union
American Institute of Architects
American Society of Civil Engineers
Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists
Boise State University
Cascadia Region Earthquake Workgroup
Consortium of Universities for Research in Earthquake Engineering
Earthquake Engineering Research Institute
International Code Council
MCEER (formerly known as the Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research)
National Council of Structural Engineers Associations
National Emergency Management Association
National Fire Protection Association
National Institute of Building Sciences
Portland Cement Association