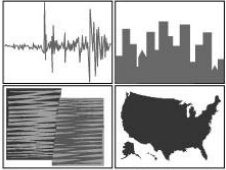


NEHRP Coalition



National Earthquake Hazards
Reduction Program Coalition

December 3, 2012

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Boxer:

We are writing on behalf of the Nation's earthquake professionals - scientists, engineers, architects, building code officials, and emergency management and response leaders - to thank you for your continued leadership and to urge you to work with Congress to immediately move forward on the reauthorization of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP). Authorization for the program expired in 2009. Further delay may well prevent the Nation from achieving the goals of the NEHRP Strategic Plan, namely, a Nation that is earthquake-resilient in public safety, economic strength, and national security.

While the Coalition supports the higher authorized levels and the longer authorization period contained in Senate bill S. 646, the need for swift reauthorization and an understanding of the budget constraints that Congress must operate under leads the Coalition to support legislation closer to the authorization levels contained in the House version of the legislation, H.R. 3479, provided the following modifications are made:

- Increase the authorization for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to \$67 million per year. This would bring the authorization up to the FY 2011 appropriation of \$61.4 million, plus adding \$5.5 million for the Global Seismic Network, which in the past was a separate line item.
- Increase the authorization for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to \$7.8 million per year, in line with the FY 2011 appropriation to assure that funds are available for FEMA's outreach and implementation responsibilities;
- Increase the authorization for the National Science Foundation (NSF) to \$55.3 million, in line with the FY 2011 appropriation;
- Accept the current authorization for NIST at \$4.1 million as it is in line with the FY 2011 appropriation, as long as NIST is not assigned lead agency responsibility for post-earthquake investigations in the compromise bill.

For More Information:
202/789-7850 (ASCE)
510/451-0905 (EERI)
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.

NEHRP makes Americans safer and makes our Nation more secure, both financially and physically, by implementing the results and insight from research in the earth and behavioral sciences, public policy, and engineering. The

earthquake community stands united in the opinion that the federal government's most effective tool in mitigating the potentially devastating impact of earthquakes is a robust NEHRP. Created by Congress in 1977 and reauthorized by a large bipartisan majority in 2004, NEHRP provided the resources and leadership that led to significant advances in understanding the risk earthquakes pose and the best ways to adequately prepare and respond.

NEHRP has served as the backbone for protecting the lives of 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. Moreover, NEHRP supports local, state and regional earthquake programs that help communities and citizens across the nation mitigate, prepare, respond and recover from earthquakes.

Thank you for your unwavering support of NEHRP and for the opportunity to express our views. 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.

The American Institute of Architects
American Council of Engineering Companies
American Geophysical Union
American Geosciences Institute
American Society of Civil Engineers
Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists
Boise State University
California Institute of Technology
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 Fire Protection Association
National Institute of Building Sciences
Seismological Society of America
Southern California Earthquake Center