

October 20, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Support adding S.320 - National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2025 to the Unanimous Consent Calendar

Dear Majority Leader Thune and Minority Leader Schumer:

The undersigned organizations **urge you to add S.320, the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) Reauthorization Act of 2025, to the Unanimous Consent Calendar** for immediate consideration and passage.

Reauthorization of NEHRP ensures agencies prioritize and fund programming that address our nation's tremendous earthquake risk—preserving public safety, strengthening national security, and sustaining the economic stability of our communities.

On May 1, 2025, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee unanimously advanced this bipartisan legislation to reauthorize NEHRP through FY 2028. **In the 118th Congress, a nearly identical bill, S. 3606, was ordered reported favorably by the same committee and later passed the Senate by unanimous consent on December 5, 2024.**

For nearly five decades, NEHRP has been our nation's only coordinated program for developing and implementing capabilities that increase seismic resilience and bolster state and local efforts to prepare for earthquakes. **NEHRP is a fiscal standout. According to a National Institute of Building Sciences study, adopting modern seismic code provisions grounded in NEHRP research return about \$12 for every \$1 invested, common retrofit packages average ~13:1, and stand-alone federal earthquake mitigation grants deliver ~3:1.**

The risk is broad and consequential. **Almost half of the U.S. population—about 150 million people—live in portions of 42 states at risk of a damaging earthquake in the next 50 years.** Sixteen of those states face very high risk, where a major event in a metropolitan region would cause unprecedented life loss, damage to buildings and infrastructure, and cascading social and economic impacts.

It is now more important than ever to reauthorize NEHRP. S.320 addresses the nation's seismic risk by encouraging state and local entities to inventory high-risk buildings and infrastructure and expand the definition of seismic events to include earthquake-caused tsunamis. It also makes Tribal governments eligible recipients across NEHRP activities, improves mitigation for earthquake-related hazards, and advances functional recovery concepts that ensure buildings and critical infrastructure can support our communities' basic functions and services for faster recovery.

We respectfully urge you to place **S.320 on the Unanimous Consent Calendar** for immediate consideration and passage.

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Lang Ofstad (Public Policy and Advocacy Committee, Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, anna@zylient.com) or Aaron Levy (Vice President, Government Relations, International Code Council, alevy@iccsafe.org).

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

American Institute of Architects

American Society of Civil Engineers

Applied Technology Council

BuildStrong America

Center for Risk-Based Community Resilience Planning

Central United States Earthquake Consortium

Earthquake Engineering Research Institute

GeoHazards International

The Geological Society of America

Kinematics, Inc.

International Association of Emergency Managers

International Code Council

International Institute of Building Enclosure Consultants

National Council of Structural Engineers Associations

National Institute of Building Sciences

National Ready Mixed Concrete Association

Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure

Natural Hazards Center and CONVERGE, University of Colorado Boulder

NHERI DesignSafe Cyberinfrastructure

Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center

Seismological Society of America

Statewide California Earthquake Center

U.S. Green Building Council

U.S. Resiliency Council

CC: The Honorable Ted Cruz, Chairman, United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member, United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate

The Honorable Alex Padilla, United States Senate