



April 30, 2021

Freddie Rodriguez, Chair
Committee on Emergency Management
Capitol Office Building, Room 2188
P. O. Box 942849
Sacramento, California 94249-0052

Subject: EERI and SEAOC SUPPORT for AB 1569

Dear Assembly Member Rodriguez:

The Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) and the Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC) **SUPPORT** Assembly Bill 1569 which would require the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to submit, on an annual basis, a written report to various Legislative committees concerning investments and expenditures pertaining to the FEMA Grants administered by the OES.

In just the last few years, California has suffered extensive losses from wildland fires and their resulting debris flows. At the same time, California has more lives, property, and investments at risk from earthquakes than any other state. Over the past decade, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds to the State have totaled \$851.5 million. With ever-increasing need, and with more funding becoming available through new Federal grant programs, it is essential that the Legislature, and local jurisdictions, have a complete and consistent record of the grants cities and counties have applied for through the Office of Emergency Services (OES), how those applications have fared at the national level, and how the awarded funds have been used. Assembly Bill 1569, which requires OES to report on the State's implementation of FEMA grants, would facilitate that effort.

EERI is the leading non-profit membership organization dedicated to understanding earthquake risk and increasing earthquake resilience in communities worldwide. We advocate for realistic measures that reduce the destructive impacts of earthquakes. Our membership includes professionals from a wide range of disciplines, many of whom are proud California residents. With 3500 members, SEAOC is the largest association of structural engineers in the country. SEAOC products have influenced earthquake engineering around the world for over fifty years.

As leading professional organizations and internationally recognized authorities on earthquake engineering, **EERI and SEAOC SUPPORT AB 1569**. Thank you for considering our position on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Heidi Tremayne in black ink.

Heidi Tremayne
Executive Director
Earthquake Engineering Research Institute

Handwritten signature of Don Schinske in black ink.

Don Schinske
Executive Director
Structural Engineers Association of California