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Senator Thad Cochran
113 Dirksen SOB
Washington DC 20510

June 27, 2017

Dear Senator Cochran,

On behalf of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, a non-profit technical society dedicated to reducing earthquake risk, I am writing to express support for important earthquake-related federal programs. These programs are critical to our nation's security and safety, infrastructure, economic competitiveness, and long-term vitality.

We are concerned that earthquake-related federal programs could be eliminated or severely cut back if the President's proposed budget is enacted. I am writing to urge that you support continued funding for these life-saving, infrastructure-critical programs.

Important earthquake-related programs slated for cuts in the President's proposed budget are:

- **United States Geological Survey's (USGS) Earthquake Hazards Program**

Proposed cuts would threaten the ability of USGS to monitor earthquakes, map seismic hazard, and support emergency responders throughout the US. Implementation of the newly developed Earthquake Early Warning System would be eliminated.

- **National Science Foundation's (NSF) Directorates for Geosciences and Engineering**

Proposed cuts would slow critical research about the fundamentals of earthquakes and innovative new technologies to minimize their impact on buildings, infrastructure systems, and communities.

- **Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Building Sciences Program**

Cuts to this program would reduce local, state and federal-level preparedness, drill exercises for the public, and emergency response capabilities for earthquakes and other natural extreme hazards.

- **National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST), National Earthquake Hazards Reduction (NEHRP) Program Directorate**

Cuts to this program would reduce support for guidelines and standards needed for earthquake risk reduction for building and infrastructure systems, and would impact coordination and efficiency of all federal earthquake programs.

Earthquakes are not political. They threaten our infrastructure systems and at least 140 million Americans in forty-two states. The earthquake-focused programs listed above have clear benefits to the USA and our people. The costs of these programs are a fraction of the losses that can be generated by a single earthquake. We urge you to make sure that these programs are adequately funded in any budget passed by Congress.

Sincerely,

David A. Friedman
President