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August 31, 2018

Governor Edmund G. Brown
California State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Earthquake Engineering Research Institute's Support for AB 1857

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI), I am writing to express our **strong support** for California Assembly Bill 1857 – *Building codes: earthquake safety: immediate occupancy standard*, authored by Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian.

EERI is a nonprofit society of experts dedicated to reducing earthquake risk. In this role, we advocate for comprehensive and realistic measures for reducing the harmful effects of earthquakes. Our membership includes professionals in a wide range of seismic safety-related scientific and design disciplines, including but not limited to architects, planners, social scientists, seismologists, structural engineers, geotechnical engineers, and public policy professionals.

California Assembly Bill 1857 requires an investigation into the creation of a “functional recovery” standard to be incorporated in the California Building Code for all or some building occupancy classifications in the state. **EERI believes that these enforceable building code provisions and regulations are an important and necessary step to improved seismic safety in California. New design and construction requirements will support California's broader disaster resilience and mitigation goals in the future.**

AB 1857 names EERI as a member of the working group that will consider this “functional recovery” standard for California buildings. We welcome participation in this working group with diverse stakeholder representation, and expect that a consensus-based recommendation will emerge that identifies appropriate and practical directions for the California Building Code to enhance earthquake resilience. We maintain that this is a vital investigation that will result in improved seismic safety for *all* California residents.

This is your chance to make an indelible mark on the earthquake resilience of California, and we urge you to add prioritizing earthquake safety to your legacy. Thank you for considering our position on this important piece of legislation. Please let us know how EERI can offer any further support.

Sincerely,

David Friedman
President