



EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Board of Directors

David A. Friedman, *President*
Laurie A. Johnson, *President-Elect*
Danielle Mieler, *Vice President*
Lucy Arendt, *Secretary/Treasurer*

John G. Anderson
Ross W. Boulanger
Gregory G. Deierlein
Tara C. Hutchinson

Sissy Nikolaou
Judith Mitrani-Reiser
Barry H. Welliver

Executive Director
Heidi Tremayne

August 31, 2018

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

Subject: Earthquake Engineering Research Institute's Support for AB 2681

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI), I am writing to express our **strong support** of *California Assembly Bill 2681 - Seismic safety: potentially vulnerable buildings*, introduced by Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian, which calls for a statewide inventory of seismically vulnerable buildings in areas of high seismic activity.

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. We have worked closely with Assemblyman Nazarian to assure that the program is technically feasible and sound.

California Assembly Bill 2681 requires cities to identify buildings in their jurisdiction that are at significant risk of failure during a major earthquake and requires the establishment of funding sources to help cover the costs for cities in producing an inventory. This snapshot of California's building vulnerabilities will provide a detailed understanding of the potential seismic impacts that face the state and will enlighten communities for which there is an urgent need for mitigation. Californians have a right to be informed about the safety and post-earthquake usability of the buildings in which they live and work based on the best information available. Cities need this information to plan against loss of life, economic devastation and the chaos of a seismic disaster.

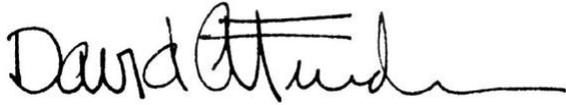
Various cost estimates exist for implementing the legislative intent of AB 2681, but no matter how you determine the numbers, **the outcome of AB 2681 is worth the investment**. Cities cannot act to mitigate or address their risk if they do not know the facts. **This legislation will help all California jurisdictions better understand the seismic vulnerability of their building stock so that they have the knowledge necessary to design, adapt, adopt, and implement unique programs and activities to meet their specific needs**. There is no mandate for how they action the information received. The information generated will allow cities to set their own mitigation agenda.

EERI's studies of damaging earthquakes around the world have shown that the building types indicated in AB 2681 can be very dangerous, thus, taking the first step of inventory is worth the contributions by all stakeholders described in this bill.

As an international authority on seismic safety for more than 70 years, EERI would like to express our strong support of AB 2681 and encourage Governor Brown to support it as well. This is not the only step needed to mitigate seismic risk in CA from existing buildings, but it is an important first step to take.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Friedman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

David Friedman
President