

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 18, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall,

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2017 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we ask that you provide increased funding for the U.S. Geological Survey's earthquake-related programs, specifically \$16.1 million for the development and operation of a West Coast Earthquake Early Warning System.

Earthquake Early Warning is proven technology that is already fully operational in countries like Japan and Mexico. The U.S. Geological Survey, in conjunction with the California Institute of Technology, the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Washington, and the University of Oregon, is currently working to adapt the technology for the West Coast of the United States. The consortium has developed a prototype system for test users along the West Coast, including San Francisco's Bay Area Rapid Transit, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Boeing production facilities in Washington, and Intel production facilities in Oregon.

During the 2014 earthquake in Napa County, California, test users at UC Berkeley received ten seconds of warning, and those in San Francisco and San Jose received even more. This is enough warning to take steps necessary to prevent casualties and mitigate destruction, including slowing or stopping trains and cars; pausing medical procedures; turning off supplies of oil, natural gas, and chemicals; securing large manufacturing equipment; stopping elevators and opening their doors; and securing sensitive computer data.

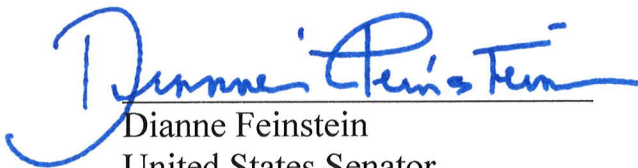
The effectiveness of Earthquake Early Warning largely depends on the number and placement of sensors to ensure that there is adequate coverage wherever an earthquake may hit. Congress provided \$8.2 million in the Fiscal Year 2016 Consolidated Appropriations bill, but more funding is necessary to purchase

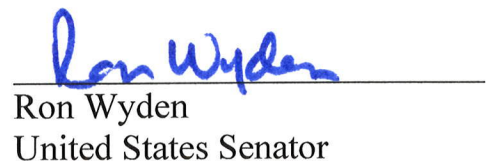
and install hundreds of additional sensors in order to provide an accurate and timely public warning.

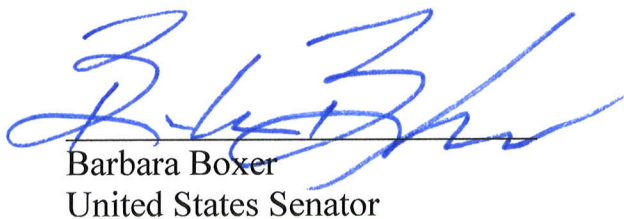
Therefore, we urge you to provide at least \$16.1 million for the development and operation of this system so that the West Coast will be prepared for the next catastrophic earthquake. This is proven technology that will save lives and reduce the economic impact of an earthquake by far more than the cost to build this warning system. It simply needs to be properly funded.

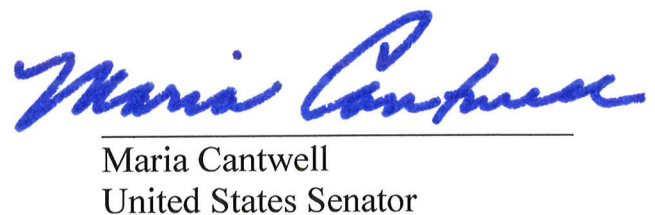
Thank you for considering our request.

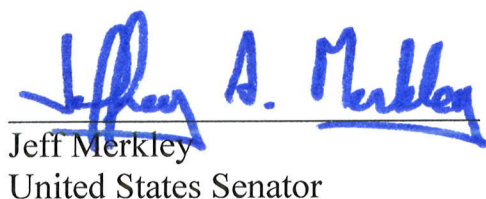
Sincerely,


Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator


Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Barbara Boxer
United States Senator


Maria Cantwell
United States Senator


Jeff Merkley
United States Senator