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Thursday, April 11, 2019

Senator Robert Hertzberg
California State Senate
Sacramento, California

Subject: Support In Concept for SB 254

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

I am writing to you to express the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute's (EERI's) **support in concept** of [California Senate Bill 254](#): *California Earthquake Authority* introduced by Senator Hertzberg, which calls for the partial restructuring of the California Earthquake Authority's (CEA's) financial structure to significantly increase its annual budget for earthquake mitigation projects.

EERI is a national, nonprofit technical society of experts dedicated to reducing earthquake risk. In this role, it advocates for comprehensive and realistic measures for reducing the destructive effects of earthquakes. EERI 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. As an internationally recognized authority on seismic engineering and safety for more than 70 years, EERI would like to express its support of the concept of SB 254, in advocating for and growing mitigation efforts throughout the state.

SB 254 would allow the CEA to create a projected 15-fold increase in its annual budget for seismic mitigation projects, up to \$70 million a year. EERI believes strongly that creating earthquake resilient communities is essential to the protection of the rich economic and cultural assets of our state in the face of significant seismic hazards. The stewardship of a resilient California begins with robust and technically sound seismic mitigation programming. This bill would both allow for the growth of existing mitigation programs administered by CEA, such as the '[Brace + Bolt](#)' program, and the creation of new programs to protect our communities before the next major earthquake. More on this can be found in [EERI's Policy Position Statements](#).

While EERI does not have specific expertise on best practices for insurance financing, we do believe that the resulting increase in mitigation funding would be a strong and essential step towards a more resilient California.

Thank you for considering EERI's support in concept on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Barry H. Welliver
Vice President