



**ERIC GARCETTI**  
**MAYOR**

April 11, 2019

The Honorable Susan Rubio  
Chair, Senate Insurance Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2195  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Brian W. Jones  
Vice Chair, Senate Insurance Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2195  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Letter of Support for SB 254 (Hertzberg) – Resilient Homes Initiative**

Dear Chair Rubio and Vice Chair Jones:

I write to express my strong support for SB 254 (Hertzberg), the Resilient Homes Initiative, which would empower the California Earthquake Authority (CEA) to significantly increase its funding of the seismic retrofit incentive grant program from \$5 million to \$75 million per year at no cost to taxpayers.

Los Angeles is the heart of the high seismic regions in Southern California where the CEA retrofit grants will be available. The City of Los Angeles will be a major beneficiary of the creative mitigation funding solutions proposed under SB 254. This funding will make a tremendous impact on the city's ongoing efforts to make Angelenos safer, and their homes and neighborhoods more resilient.

CEA's Earthquake Brace + Bolt program (EBB) has provided funding for more than 7,700 retrofits since it launched in 2014, with nearly 4,000 of those homes in Los Angeles County. While EBB is an excellent start, the urgent need for retrofitting older homes in Los Angeles region dwarfs the funding currently available through CEA's mitigation program. SB 254 addresses this urgent need by creating a fifteen-fold increase in funding available from CEA to enhance local mitigation efforts. The City of Los Angeles would welcome this assistance with open arms.

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The science is clear: California will experience another powerful and damaging earthquake in the foreseeable future. Now is the time for action. I commend Senator Hertzberg for his leadership on this important issue and respectfully request that the Senate Insurance Committee approve SB 254. This letter reflects solely the opinion of its author.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Garcetti", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

ERIC GARCETTI  
Mayor of Los Angeles

cc: The Honorable Robert Hertzberg, California State Senate, District 18  
Honorable Members and Consultants, Senate Insurance Committee