



# STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

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March 31, 2011

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The Honorable John D. Rockefeller  
Chairman  
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: **Support** - Reauthorization of NEHRP

Chairman Rockefeller and Ranking Member Hutchison:

The Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC) is a nonprofit professional association representing nearly 3000 structural engineers and civil engineers engaged in the practice of structural engineering in California.

Please be advised SEAOC strongly supports the reauthorization of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP). NEHRP is essential to the assurance that we have the highest degree possible of resilience in the built environment as a matter of public safety, maintaining economic strength, and national security. Recent events in Japan and New Zealand have again underscored the potential volatility of our geological environment. We are particularly sensitive to this in earthquake-prone California as are our neighbor states Washington and Oregon to the North living on the edge of the Cascadia Subduction Zone. A major event is inevitable and time is not on our side.

We understand that members of the NEHRP Coalition have been working with your Committee staff, providing comments on S. 646, "The Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2011". We join in their support of the intent of the bill and urge that Congress act as quickly as possible to move forward with reauthorization in order to continue to expand our understanding of the risk earthquakes pose and enhance mitigation strategies to save lives, protect property, and reduce adverse economic impacts.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Stephen Pelham  
President

Cc: The Honorable Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer

PROTECTING THE PUBLIC WITH SAFER STRUCTURES