



EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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May 27, 2025

Honorable Rhodesia Ransom
Assembly Committee on Emergency Management
1020 N Street, Room 360B
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: EERI SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

Dear Chair Ransom:

The Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) supports Assembly Joint Resolution No. 11. Investing in predisaster mitigation makes our communities safer and able to recover more quickly after earthquakes, wildfires, floods, and other natural hazards. The passage of the federal Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 was an important step in this direction, by increasing annual funding for hazard mitigation through the establishment of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Cutting funding from projects that were already underway is wasteful and inefficient, as jurisdictions have already spent significant resources securing required matching funds and preparing for implementation. We are aware of several seismic mitigation programs that are impacted by BRIC cancellations. These earthquake mitigation projects would have created measurable improvements to the safety of Americans, but now will not continue, leaving these communities at heightened risk from earthquakes.

We appreciate Assembly Member Ransom's efforts to highlight this poor decision to end the BRIC program, cancel BRIC applications from prior years, and require awarded funds that have not yet been distributed to be returned. And we applaud the California Assembly and Senate in calling for the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States to restore full funding for the BRIC program.

Sincerely,

Heidi Tremayne
Executive Director