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April 20, 2021

The Honorable David Chiu, Chair

Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development
Legislative Office Building 1020 N Street, Room 156
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Earthquake Engineering Research Institute Support for AB-1329

Dear Assemblymember Chiu:

The Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) **SUPPORTS AB-1329** to improve preparedness for and resilience to earthquakes by including post-earthquake recovery time in the California building code.

EERI is the leading non-profit membership organization dedicated to understanding earthquake risk and increasing earthquake resilience in communities worldwide. We advocate for realistic measures that reduce the destructive impacts of earthquakes. Our membership includes professionals from a wide range of seismic safety-related disciplines, from architects and structural engineers, to social scientists and emergency managers.

Current California building codes protect occupant safety but do not ensure that a building will be usable after an earthquake. With such a large and diverse economy and population, California is vulnerable to major disruptions to commerce and community functions following a major earthquake. AB-1329 addresses this challenge by requiring the development and adoption of building code provisions that provide for “functional recovery.” A paradigm shift in how the built environment is conceived, “functional recovery” means that a building’s structure, architectural components, and mechanical systems would maintain their integrity or could be restored to support the building’s pre-earthquake use within a specified time.

AB-1329 is consistent with recommendations issued in a recent NIST-FEMA Special Publication for achieving appropriate and practical implementation of a functional recovery time building standard for enhanced earthquake resilience¹. Several EERI members contributed to the development of this report. Further, the importance of a functional recovery building standard is outlined in a seminal 2019 EERI whitepaper².

As an internationally recognized authority on seismic engineering and safety for more than 70 years, EERI **STRONGLY SUPPORTS AB-1329**. Thank you for considering our position on this important issue.

Sincerely,

David Cocke
EERI President

¹ FEMA P-2090/NIST SP-1254, “Recommended Options for Improving the Built Environment for Post-Earthquake Reoccupancy and Functional Recovery Time”. <https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/SpecialPublications/NIST.SP.1254.pdf>

² <https://www.eeri.org/wp-content/uploads/EERI-Functional-Recovery-Conceptual-Framework-White-Paper-201912.pdf>