

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2025

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies

Dear Chairman Mike Simpson and Ranking Member Chellie Pingree:

As you craft the Fiscal Year 2026 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you provide the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) with \$99,000,000 for Earthquake Hazards, with \$8 million specifically for Subduction Zone Science (SZS). Subduction zone earthquakes are the type that put the Pacific Northwest at risk for tremendous loss of life and property.

USGS SZS relies on multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary collaborations, and is focused on eight regional and topical themes including Cascadia Region Subduction Zone earthquakes.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded the University of Oregon a five-year, \$15 million award for the Cascadia Region Earthquake Science Center (CRESCENT), the first earthquake center focused on subduction zone earthquakes. Several west coast universities are partners in the Center, including the University of Washington, Central Washington University, Oregon State University, Portland State University, Purdue, Stanford, University of California San Diego, and Cal Poly Humboldt.

The USGS program has the authority to enter partnerships with organizations like UO CRESCENT, the Cascadia Region Earthquake Science Center. While President Trump's first administration, along with the most recent administration, requested greater funding for SZS, Congress has not funded the President's Budget Request and in FY24 cut the program to \$2.7 million.

USGS matched the previous NSF earthquake center's funding at the Southern California Earthquake Center through its earthquake science line using a cooperative agreement. We seek funds for USGS to match NSF's investment in CRESCENT (\$3 million/year), the USGS subduction zone science line needs to grow to about \$8 million.

This USGS funding is critical so CRESCENT will have the same impact and resources as its predecessor had, translating science into solutions to keep the Pacific Northwest safer. The prospect for a magnitude 9.0 subduction zone earthquake and the devastation it will bring makes this applied funding critical.

We respectfully request that the Subcommittee increase funding for Subduction Zone Science to \$8.0 million, allowing USGS to provide parity for this new and vital Center.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to working with you ensure the safety and security of the West Coast. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Joey Kranitz (Joey.Kranitz@mail.house.gov) from Congresswoman Hoyle's office.


Sincerely,



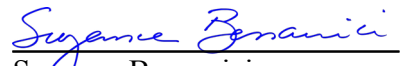
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



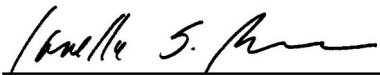
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