

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 30, 2024

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 2025 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)**.

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 program has the authority to enter partnerships with organizations like UO CRESCENT, the Cascadia Region Earthquake Science Center. While the current and previous Administrations have requested greater funding for SZS, Congress has not funded the President's Budget Request and in FY24 cut the program from \$3 million to \$2.7 million.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently awarded the University of Oregon a five-year, \$15 million award for CRESCENT, the first earthquake center focused on subduction zone earthquakes. Subduction zone earthquakes are the type that put the Pacific Northwest at risk and several regional universities are partners in the Center, including University of Washington, Central Washington University, Oregon State University, Portland State University, Purdue, Stanford, University of California San Diego, and Cal Poly Humboldt.

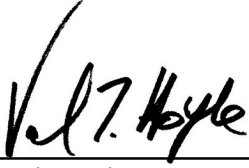
USGS matched the previous NSF earthquake center's funding, Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC), through its earthquake science line using a cooperative agreement. For USGS to match NSF's investment in CRESCENT (\$3 million/year), the USGS subduction zone science line needs to grow to about \$8 million. The Administration has been requesting funds for USGS SZS, but Congress has been funding it at about \$3 million (until FY24 when it was cut to \$2.7 million) instead of the Administration's requested level.

This USGS funding is critical so CRESCENT will have the same impact and resources as its predecessor had, and ultimately secure a cooperative agreement or similar vehicle that matches the annual NSF contribution, translating science into solutions as the USGS resources are focused on applied solutions. 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 to 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](mailto:Joey.Kranitz@mail.house.gov)) from Congresswoman Hoyle's office.

Sincerely,



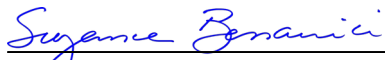
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Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



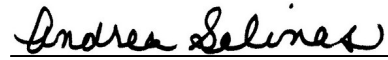
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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



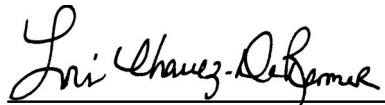
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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



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Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



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Lori Chavez-DeRemer  
Member of Congress