

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

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related  
Agencies Appropriations  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related  
Agencies Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

As you craft the Fiscal Year 2019 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you provide the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) with \$16.1 million for the construction, operation and maintenance of a West Coast Earthquake Early Warning System, also called ShakeAlert.

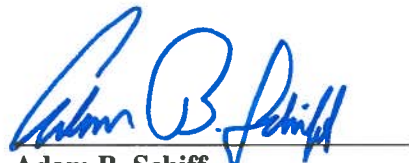
The USGS, in collaboration with Caltech, UC Berkeley, the University of Washington, and the University of Oregon, has developed ShakeAlert, which detects waves radiating from the epicenter of a quake and would provide people with several to tens of seconds of warning in California, and up to few minutes in Washington and Oregon through their phones, computers and other media. This is a "smart infrastructure" investment that will ultimately provide advanced notice so people can take cover, automated systems can be triggered to slow down trains and manage the power grid, doctors can pause surgeries, and more. The technology has been tested and proven to work effectively.

FEMA has estimated that earthquakes cost the United States, averaged over the long term, more than \$5 billion a year. This common-sense investment will save lives, protect businesses, and could make a real difference in more rapid recovery for local communities, the federal government and the economy as a whole.

We appreciate the growing support from the Committee that we saw over the past few years, and we hope that this support will continue this year.

While we cannot predict when and where the next major earthquake will hit, we must do all we can to prepare ourselves so that we can mitigate the injuries, destruction, and chaos as much as possible. We appreciate your consideration of our request, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

  
Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress

  
Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress

  
Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress

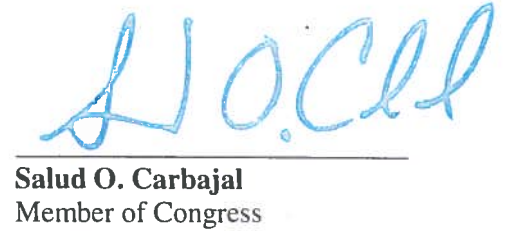
  
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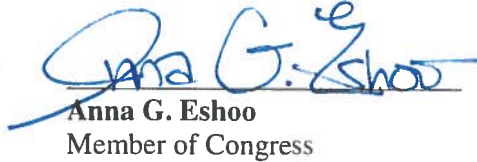
  
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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

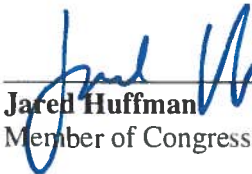
  
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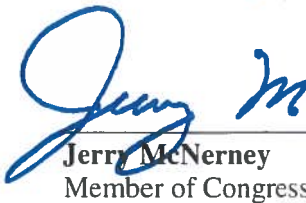
  
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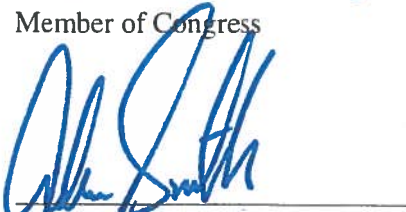
  
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