

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

October 11, 2012

Jeffrey Zients  
Acting Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Executive Office of the President  
Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Zients:

As you work with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to craft its fiscal year 2014 budget request, we urge that you support the Earthquake Hazards Program and the Global Seismic Network at the highest possible level. As Members of Congress representing districts in the United States at risk from earthquake hazards, we are concerned with the deteriorating fiscal health of these programs. These modest investments will ensure USGS is able to continue its crucial mission of protecting the nation from earthquake hazards.

As you know, earthquakes are a serious threat to the United States, with over 75 million people in 39 states living in areas of significant earthquake risk. In the wake of recent devastating national and international earthquake events, it is critical the United States maintains its vigilance and expertise in earthquake research. The USGS provides seismic monitoring and scientific programs that serve the entire nation.

USGS, with its university partners, should work toward developing an earthquake-early warning system, such as those in Mexico and Japan. An earthquake early-warning system would allow people and businesses enough time to prepare for an earthquake event and, thereby, potentially minimize loss. In addition, it is vital USGS continue to develop new products and services that benefit all Americans. For example, last year's magnitude 5.8 earthquake in central Virginia, highlighted the need for continued USGS investments in east-coast earthquake hazard research and assessment, including permanent seismic stations. USGS also should continue to invest in research on induced seismicity. These critical investments cannot be pursued unless robust funding for the USGS Earthquake Hazards Program and the Global Seismic Network is maintained.

The need to address the national debt is real, but accomplishing this task should not be done at the expense of programs that protect lives and property. As such, we respectfully request that you support USGS's Earthquake Hazard Program and Global Seismic Network in the FY 2014 budget request.

Sincerely,



**Ken Calvert**  
Member of Congress



**Adam B. Schiff**  
Member of Congress



**Brian Bilbray**  
Member of Congress



**Judy Chu**  
Member of Congress



**Elton Gallegly**  
Member of Congress



**Grace Napolitano**  
Member of Congress



**Laura Richardson**  
Member of Congress



**Janice Hahn**  
Member of Congress



**Karen Bass**  
Member of Congress



**Zoe Lofgren**  
Member of Congress



**Pete Stark**  
Member of Congress



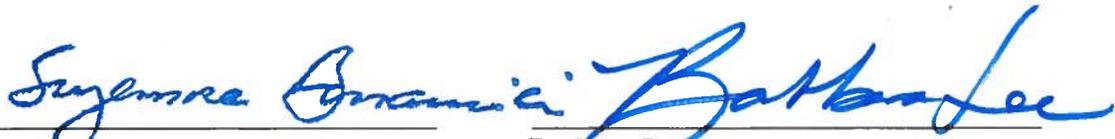
**Maxine Waters**  
Member of Congress



**Susan Davis**  
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**Anna Eshoo**  
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**Suzanne Bonamici**  
Member of Congress

**Barbara Lee**  
Member of Congress



**Jackie Speier**  
Member of Congress



**Howard Berman**  
Member of Congress



**Henry Waxman**  
Member of Congress



**Lucille Roybal-Allard**  
Member of Congress



**Linda Sanchez**  
Member of Congress



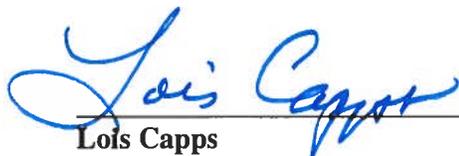
**Bob Filner**  
Member of Congress



**Earl Blumenauer**  
Member of Congress



**Michael Honda**  
Member of Congress



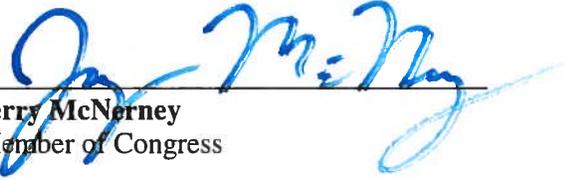
**Lois Capps**  
Member of Congress



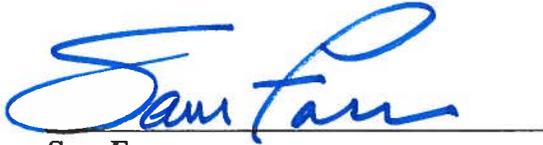
**Doris Matsui**  
Member of Congress



**Brad Sherman**  
Member of Congress



**Jerry McNerney**  
Member of Congress



**Sam Farr**  
Member of Congress

CC: Craig Crutchfield, Chief, Interior Branch  
Melanie Stansbury, Program Examiner