

April 16, 2026

The Honorable Brian Babin  
Chairman  
Committee on Science, Space, and  
Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Science, Space, and  
Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
394 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Babin and Ranking Member Lofgren:

The undersigned organizations encourage the Committee to urge House leadership that **S.320, the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) Reauthorization Act of 2025**, is advanced by the full House under suspension of the rules for immediate consideration and passage.

Reauthorization of NEHRP ensures agencies prioritize and fund programming that addresses our nation's tremendous earthquake risk—preserving public safety, strengthening national security, and sustaining the economic stability of our communities.

For nearly five decades, NEHRP has been our nation's only coordinated program for developing and implementing capabilities that increase seismic resilience and bolster state and local efforts to prepare for earthquakes. NEHRP is a fiscal standout. **According to a National Institute of Building Sciences study, adopting modern seismic code provisions grounded in NEHRP research returns about \$12 for every \$1 invested, common retrofit packages average ~13:1, and stand-alone federal earthquake mitigation grants deliver ~3:1.**

The risk is broad and consequential. **Almost half of the U.S. population—roughly 150 million people—live in parts of 42 states that are at risk of a damaging earthquake in the next 50 years.** Sixteen of those states face a very high risk, in which a major event in a metropolitan region would cause unprecedented loss of life, damage to buildings and infrastructure, and cascading social and economic impacts.

It is now more important than ever to reauthorize NEHRP. S. 320 addresses the nation's seismic risk by encouraging state and local entities to inventory high-risk buildings and infrastructure and expand the definition of seismic events to include earthquake-caused tsunamis. It also makes Tribal governments eligible recipients across NEHRP activities, improves mitigation for earthquake-related hazards, and advances functional recovery concepts that ensure buildings and critical infrastructure can support our communities' basic functions and services for faster recovery.

We respectfully ask you to seek prompt consideration and passage of S. 320 – currently held at the desk– via suspension of the rules.

If you have any questions, please contact Aaron Davis at 202709-7709 or [aaron.davis@navigatorsglobal.com](mailto:aaron.davis@navigatorsglobal.com).

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

American Geophysical Union  
American Institute of Architects  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
BuildStrong America  
Earthquake Engineering Research Institute  
Geological Society of America  
International Association of Emergency Managers  
International Code Council  
International Institute of Building Enclosure Consultants  
National Council of Structural Engineers Associations  
National Institute of Building Sciences  
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association  
Seismological Society of America  
Statewide California Earthquake Center  
U.S. Green Building Council

cc:

The Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House  
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader  
The Honorable Virginia Foxx, Chairwoman, Committee on Rules  
The Honorable Jim McGovern, Ranking Member, Committee on Rules