



April 30, 2019

RE: Support House Bill 5005 funding for ShakeAlert & ALERTWildfire

Dear Legislative Leaders,

As chief financial officers of our states, we work to ensure the financial well-being of our citizens and the security of state resources. We know that the financial stability of individuals and states is seriously impacted by damage to infrastructure and economic disruptions following earthquakes and wildfires.

Our states are subject to a number of threats related to seismic activity. In particular, geologists predict that we will experience an earthquake emanating from the Cascadia Subduction Zone megathrust fault off our coastline. The consequences will be severe for our region with projections showing the potential for tens of billions of dollars of damage to buildings and infrastructure, tens of billions more in economic losses, and potentially thousands of human casualties.

In addition to the threat of a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami, our region has seen devastating wildfires with far reaching economic, environmental, and human health implications. The increasing frequency and severity of wildfires in each of our states presents an immediate threat to our region. In 2018, millions of acres of land were burned in our states, billions of dollars were spent fighting fires, our economies lost billions more, and there was significant structural damage and loss of life. Wildfires are an ongoing and increasing threat and a significant concern for the state governments of Washington, Oregon, and California.

We know that preparing for seismic- and wildfire-related threats involves a number of complicated policy choices and enormous allocation of scarce resources. However, there is a straightforward and budget-friendly step we can and should take right now. The ShakeAlert and ALERTWildfire systems will provide early warning to residents and critical information to first responders. We support the proposed \$12 million appropriation to support full implementation of these critical programs.

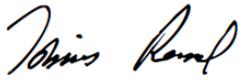
ShakeAlert will provide seconds to minutes of warning of impending ground shaking, allowing individuals and businesses to carry out predetermined actions for safety. However, this critical system will only work as intended if the entire West Coast has an interconnected system, which is why the funding for the buildout is critical. ShakeAlert is the product of a consortium of public and private partners, including the United States Geological Survey, the University of California-Berkeley, the University of Washington, and the University of Oregon.

Similarly, ALERTWildfire is a partnership between three universities along the West Coast to provide state of the art wildfire cameras and associated tools to help firefighters and first responders. This system will help discover, locate, and confirm fire ignition and quickly appropriate resources to respond.

These two systems will provide vital resources and support as Washington, Oregon, and California prepare for and respond to natural disasters. We encourage you to provide the vital funding necessary to fully implement these systems to ensure that the region has access to critical information that could mitigate the broad range of damage caused by earthquakes and wildfires.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Treasurer Tobias Read
Oregon State Treasurer



Treasurer Fiona Ma
California State Treasurer



Treasurer Duane Davidson
Washington State Treasurer