



January 23, 2020

RE: Support for \$7.5 million appropriation for ShakeAlert (SB 1537)

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 tsunamis.

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.

We know that preparing for seismic-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 system will provide early warning to residents and critical information to first responders. We support the proposed \$7.5 million appropriation to support full implementation of this critical program.

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 Oregon, and the University of Washington.

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Tobias Read in black ink.

Treasurer Tobias Read

Handwritten signature of Fiona Ma in black ink.

Treasurer Fiona Ma

Handwritten signature of Duane Davidson in black ink.

Treasurer Duane Davidson