

11 December 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Thune  
Senate Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
House Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Thune, and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge Congress to prioritize passage of the bipartisan natural hazards reauthorization bills currently before you:

- H.R. 5089, Weather Act Reauthorization Act
- H.R. 3168 / S. 320, National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act
- H.R. 2250 / S. 1626, National Landslide Preparedness Act Reauthorization Act
- H.R. 3176 / S. 1052, National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System Reauthorization Act
- H.R. 4073, Tsunami Warning, Research, and Education Act of 2025

Many of these authorities have been expired for years. Without reauthorization, federal agencies operate with outdated mandates, leaving essential early-warning system and risk-reduction programs more vulnerable to administrative cuts or elimination. Congressional action is needed to maintain the core capabilities that protect lives, support local economies, and safeguard critical infrastructure.

Recent events underscore the urgency of congressional action. The July 2025 floods in central Texas caused the Guadalupe River to rise more than 20 feet in under an hour, destroying roads, bridges, and a water-treatment plant, and resulting in severe loss of life and major economic disruption. In eastern Kentucky, the 2022 floods caused more than \$1 billion in damage to roads, bridges, and utilities across multiple counties. Landslides in northern Idaho and eastern Washington have repeatedly closed highways and rail lines essential for timber and agricultural transport. And in Alaska's Aleutians, volcanic activity continues to threaten aviation routes and commercial fisheries, with major economic consequences if warning systems fail.

Nationwide, billion-dollar disasters are becoming more frequent, placing increasing strain on critical infrastructure. When roads, bridges, water systems, schools, and hospitals are damaged, recovery becomes more expensive, commerce slows, and industry operations face prolonged disruptions. Federal hazard programs supply the science, monitoring networks, modeling tools, and early-warning capabilities that state and local governments—and the private sector—depend on to reduce losses and maintain essential services. These programs are not optional. They are fundamental to protecting lives, stabilizing supply chains, and reducing long-term federal disaster costs.

We urge you to act this Congress to reauthorize these programs and renew the nation's commitment to practical, science-based hazard preparedness.

Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership in protecting the nation's safety, economy, and infrastructure.

Sincerely,

American Geophysical Union  
Applied Technology Council  
Association of American State Geologists  
Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists  
Association of State Floodplain Managers

Campbell Scientific, Inc.  
Cartography and Geographic Information Society  
The Geological Society of America  
Knowledge for a Competitive America  
Seismological Society of America  
University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS)  
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR)  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Oregon  
University of Washington

cc:

House Committee on Natural Resources  
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources