

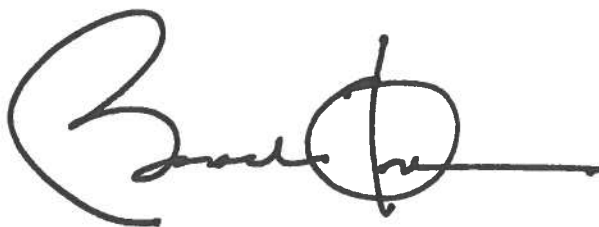
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 9, 2012

I send greetings to all those participating in the Great ShakeOut.

As a Nation, we have a shared responsibility to secure our homes, businesses, and neighborhoods against the threat of natural disasters. Among these disasters are earthquakes, which can have devastating emotional and financial effects on communities in every state and territory. While we cannot prevent earthquakes or other disasters, we can take steps to prepare for them, including identifying vulnerabilities and making necessary improvements to enhance our capabilities and strengthen our readiness.

Events like the Great ShakeOut raise awareness about the importance of disaster preparedness and show how individuals and communities can connect, engage, participate, and learn what actions to take before, during, and after an earthquake. By employing emergency exercises and drills, these occasions help keep our neighborhoods safe and contribute to a more prepared, more resilient country.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", with a large, stylized initial "B" on the left and a circular flourish on the right.