

Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction
National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program

May 9, 2019

The Honorable Walter Copan
Director
National Institute of Standards and Technology
100 Bureau Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1000

Dear Dr. Copan:

We submit this letter to you and the Interagency Coordinating Committee (ICC) as part of the charter to the federal Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction (ACEHR) for the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP). Our recommendations below were developed during an ACEHR meeting held April 30 – May 1, 2019.

With the recent reauthorization of NEHRP (PL 115-307), there are new opportunities for advancing federal efforts to reduce the significant earthquake risks in many areas of the United States. We are pleased that a meeting of the ICC is scheduled for August 2019, and we recommend the following to help the ICC fulfill its oversight role for the planning, management, and coordination of NEHRP-related activities:

1. **Endorse the strategic objective of NEHRP as a national effort to reduce the risks of life and property from future earthquakes and increase the resilience of communities in the United States.** We underscore the importance of strengthening community resilience as a foundation for implementation of this effort.
2. **Support the development of a new NEHRP strategic plan that is closely aligned with the four program activities described in Section 5 of PL 115-307.** The ICC's upcoming meeting is a timely opportunity to ensure that the NEHRP agencies devote appropriate, coordinated resources to develop this strategic plan, recognizing resource constraints across federal agencies.
3. **Discuss specific processes to more fully engage the ICC in oversight of the NEHRP program and to facilitate the participation of other federal agencies.**
4. **Seek interagency mechanisms to enhance the visibility of NEHRP and improve the documentation of program successes.**

Our September 2019 ACEHR biennial report will provide more detail on our views of the challenges and opportunities presented by a reinvigorated NEHRP program.

Submitted on behalf of the ACEHR members who fully endorse these comments.

Respectfully,



Glenn J. Rix, PhD, PE
Chair
Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction
National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program

cc: James Olthoff, Associate Director for Laboratory Programs, NIST

