HB

53

LESSMEIER & WINTERS
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
Vintage Business Park
3000 Vintage Boulevard, Suite 100
Phone: (907) 796-4999 Fax: (907) 796-4998

TELEFAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Date: April 18, 2002	**Re:** House Bill 53 Support letter
To: David Guttenberg	**Telefax No:** 465 3519
From: Sheldon E. Winters	**Our File No:** 0015-006

Number of pages transmitted (including cover sheet): 2

Message:

David:

In case either I or my partner is unable to make the hearing this afternoon, enclosed is a letter of support. I hope this suffices. I will do my best to have one of us there if at all possible.

Sheldon E. Winters

If there are any problems with this transmission,
please call (907) 796-4999.

LESSMEIER & WINTERS
LAWYERS - LLC

MICHAEL L. LESSMEIER
GREGORY W. LESSMEIER
SHELDON E. WINTERS

VINTAGE BUSINESS PARK
3000 VINTAGE BOULEVARD
SUITE 100
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

TELEPHONE: (907) 796-4999
FACSIMILE: (907) 796-4998
E-MAIL: lw@gci.net

Via Telefax and Mail
April 18, 2002

Representative John Davies
State Capital Room 415
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: *House Bill 53*

Dear Representative Davies:

I am a lobbyist for State Farm Insurance Companies. State Farm strongly supports HB 53. State Farm has worked hand in hand with various seismic safety commissions throughout the country and have found them to be invaluable in protecting the public interest. The Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission is long overdue. State Farm also appreciates the inclusion of an insurance industry representative on the commission. The insurance industry not only has expertise on insurance issues, the insurance industry has been heavily involved in seismic safety issues and has a readily-established network of experts and consultants available that could be of assistance to the Commission.

Sincerely,

LESSMEIER & WINTERS

By: _____
Sheldon E. Winters

SEW/tcw
0015-006/Rep-Davies-01-SEW.wpd

ALASKA STATE SEISMOLOGIST

GEOPHYSICAL INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-0800

Voice: (907) 474-5533

FAX: (907) 474-5618

MEMO: April 21, 1998

TO: Rep. John Davies

FROM: Dr. Roger A. Hansen

RE: Seismic Hazards Safety Commission

CC:

I would like to express my strong support for House Bill 408, "An Act establishing the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission." Because our urban areas are expanding, and because we know that measures can be taken to reduce casualties and economic losses from the next large earthquake in Alaska, it is important that we improve our mitigation efforts. Establishing an Alaska seismic hazards safety commission is an important first step in coordinating state and local efforts in this area.

Alaska spans 4,800 km of the seismically active boundary between the oceanic Pacific and continental North American plates and is one of the world's most active regions of earthquake activity associated with subduction and volcanism. Nearly the entire state is seismically active. The greatest concentration of earthquakes is along the Pacific margin where the Pacific plate is being subducted beneath southern Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. The historical record indicates that magnitude 7 and larger shocks are about three times more frequent in southern Alaska than in California. Three of the six largest earthquakes in the world this century originated in Alaska on the boundary between the Pacific and North American plates. In 1964, the eastern end of the Aleutian subduction zone spawned the moment magnitude (Mw) 9.2 Prince William Sound earthquake, the second largest earthquake of this century. Alaska's other two great earthquakes occurred in the central and western parts of the Aleutians Islands -- the 1957 Mw 8.6 Andreanof-Fox Islands earthquake and the 1965 Mw 8.7 Rat Islands earthquake. The seismicity of Alaska stems primarily from the interaction of the Pacific and North American plates. The northwestward motion of the Pacific plate relative to the North American plate is accommodated by faulting in southeast Alaska on the Queen Charlotte-Fairweather fault system (similar to the San Andreas fault), and by underthrusting and subduction of the Pacific plate along the Aleutian megathrust, which crops out on the seafloor at the Aleutian trench. The seismicity related to various tectonic elements can be divided into five distinct source zones as follows: 1) Plate-boundary earthquakes along the interface between the Pacific plate and the North American plate; 2) subsea earthquakes within the Pacific plate beneath or seaward of the trench; 3) Wadati-Benioff Zone earthquakes within the subducted part of the Pacific plate landward of the trench; 4) North American plate earthquakes; and 5) volcanic-axis earthquakes within the North American plate along the axis of active volcanoes.

Within the seismology lab at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Geophysical Institute, there is a strong seismology program with elements of earthquake and volcano monitoring, real-time processing and notification of seismic events, participation in a Federal/State tsunami hazard mitigation initiative, interaction with the engineering community, public and community outreach to

K-12 school programs, state fairs, and public lectures, and research into a variety of seismology and earthquake hazard related subjects: i.e. earthquake prediction, tectonic systems, seismic energy propagation in complex environments like Alaska, energy attenuation from strong earthquake shaking, and structural studies into the reasons for mountain building and fault behavior.

I bring up these issues as a way to speak strongly in favor of the formation of a seismic safety commission. I see such a board as a positive extension to the scientific and technological aspects of the seismology lab currently under way. It would be very complimentary to have a body who can take the results of the many and varied investigations into seismology in Alaska and translate the basic information into a coordinated effort between the scientists, the engineering community, the building industry, and such state agencies as DOT, ADDGS, and ADES. There is clearly a need for such integration into proper land use and building codes for the very potentially dangerous areas throughout Alaska. Within the tsunami program mentioned above, we have taken the position that a small amount of mitigation effort up front, has the potential for huge savings of both lives and economic loss in the event of a large earthquake. When (not whether) the next tsunamigenic earthquake strikes in the Aleutians, thousands of lives would be at risk in Sand Point, Akutan City, and Dutch Harbor. Since these communities are some of the largest fishing ports in the entire country, hundreds of millions of dollars of fishing industry infrastructure would be damaged or destroyed. A like situation exists within our largest cities in Alaska where we have known significant potential for destructive earthquakes, yet no strong framework for mitigating the hazards ahead of time.

It is time for Alaska to take steps toward reducing future earthquake losses. We can begin by passing HB 408.

Sincerely,

Roger A. Hansen

Roger A. Hansen

State Seismologist

Phone: 907 474-5533

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL & GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

☑ 794 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 200
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709-3645
PHONE: (907) 451-5000
FAX: (907) 451-5050

☐ GEOLOGIC MATERIALS CENTER
P.O. BOX 772305
EAGLE RIVER, ALASKA 99577-2305
PHONE: (907) 696-0078
FAX: (907) 696-0078

March 16, 1998

Rep. John Davies
State Capitol, Room 422
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Davies:

I would like to express my strong support for House Bill 408, "An Act establishing the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission." Seismic activity in Alaska is among the highest in the world and it is only a matter of time before another potentially destructive earthquake will strike one of our urban areas. Because these urban areas are expanding, and because we know that measures can be taken before an event to reduce casualties and economic losses, it is important that we improve our mitigation efforts. Establishing an Alaska seismic hazards safety commission is an important first step in coordinating state and local efforts in this area.

Much progress has been made in Alaska toward improving emergency-response planning, through the state Disaster Act and local preparedness exercises. However, less progress is evident in pre-disaster efforts to prevent losses and thereby reduce emergency-response needs. Such loss reduction can occur, for example, through more rigorous design and construction standards in areas more subject to earthquake damage. Although we cannot predict when and where the next large earthquake will occur, we can identify areas that will be most severely affected, and we can plan development accordingly. A seismic safety commission will help coordinate state and local efforts toward achieving these loss-reduction goals.

The California Seismic Safety Commission evolved from state advisory groups that were established as a result of Alaska's 1964 earthquake. This commission has been highly successful in initiating programs that have proven effective in reducing losses from numerous recent earthquakes. One recent article states that if there had been no seismic design standards in place prior to the 1994 Northridge earthquake, economic losses would have been 60% greater. The analysis further states that if today's standards had been strictly followed, losses would have been further reduced by 40%. Considering that the cost of complying with these standards is less than 5% of construction cost, implementing such loss-reduction measures is clearly worthwhile. Now that 34 years have passed since our last destructive earthquake, and before development expands further, it is time for Alaska to take similar steps toward reducing future earthquake losses. We can begin by passing HB 408.

Sincerely,

Rodney A Combellick

Rodney A. Combellick, Chief
Engineering Geology Section
Phone: 907-451-5007
Email: rod@dnr.state.ak.us

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL & GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

794 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 200
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709-3645
PHONE (907) 451-5000
FAX (907) 451-5050

GEOLOGIC MATERIALS CENTER
P.O. BOX 772805
EAGLE RIVER, ALASKA 99577-2805
PHONE: (907) 696-0079
FAX (907) 696-0078

April 16, 1998

The Honorable Gene Therriault
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Therriault:

Representative Davies' recently-proposed legislation, HB 408, "An Act establishing the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission" has come at a good time to position Alaska with respect to federal disaster insurance legislation currently being drafted in Congress. While no one can predict the final form of legislation that will emerge from Washington, there is a growing resistance in Congress to federally fund recovery from disasters that might have been avoided or mitigated. This may take the form of requiring states to have seismic hazard mitigation policies or reviews of some kind in place in order to participate in federal seismic disaster recovery programs.

Alaska has long acknowledged the need for having contingency plans in place for responding to hazardous earthquakes, however, less policy attention has be given to systematic seismic hazard mitigation programs. A seismic hazards safety commission acting in coordination with Alaska's Emergency Response Commission would provide a pre-event mitigation overview now lacking in the state's efforts to protect its citizens from seismic risks.

I enclose a previous letter to Representative Davies in regard to HB 408. I believe this is good legislation for the people of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Milton A. Wiltse

Milton A. Wiltse
State Geologist and Director

cc: Representative John Davies
Marty Rutherford, Deputy Commissioner

JOHN C LAHR

Representative John Davies
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 422
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear John,

I am writing to lend my support to your effort to establish an Alaskan Seismic Hazards Safety Commission. Given that Alaska is the most seismically active state in the US and that many areas are growing rapidly or being developed for resources that are critically needed by the entire nation, it is important that the State makes every effort to mitigate the effects of future earthquakes. The ASHSC could play an important role in focusing and coordinating private, state, and federal efforts on the most critical areas.

I certainly hope you are successful in establishing this commission.

John C. Lahr

John C. and Jan H. Lahr
john-jan@lahr.org
914 10th Street
Golden, Colorado 80401
(303) 215-9913

Creating a Seismic Safety Advisory Board

A GUIDE TO EARTHQUAKE RISK MANAGEMENT

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
500 C Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20472

SSC 93-03

National Seismic Safety Advisory Board Workshop
December 3 - 5, 1996
Table of Contents

This directory was prepared for the December 3-5, 1996 National Seismic Safety Advisory Boards' Workshop held in Los Angeles, California.

FEMA 1993

Appendix I

Existing Seismic Safety Advisory Boards

Arizona

Arizona Council for Earthquake Safety
Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs
Division of Emergency Services
5636 E. McDowell Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85008
Phone: (602) 231-6238
Fax: (602) 231-6231

Arkansas

Arkansas Earthquake Advisory Council
Arkansas Office of Emergency Services
P.O. Box 758
Conway, AR 72032-0758
(501) 329-5601
Fax: (501) 327-8047

California

Seismic Safety Commission
1900 K St., Ste. 100
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 322-4917
Fax: (916) 322-9476

Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC)

Central United States Earthquake Consortium
2630 E. Holmes Rd.
Memphis, TN 38118
(901) 345-0932
Fax: (901) 345-0998

Hawaii

Hawaii State Earthquake Advisory Board
Office of the Director of Civil Defense
3949 Diamond Head Road
Honolulu, HA 96816-4495
(808) 734-2161
Fax: (808) 737-4150

Illinois

Illinois Earthquake Advisory Board
Illinois Emergency Services & Disaster Agency
110 East Adams St.
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-4448

Indiana

Indiana Seismic Safety Advisory Board
Indiana State Emergency Management Agency
IN GOVT CTR S/302 W. Washington St. E208
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-3986
FAX (317) 232-3895

Kentucky

Governor's Earthquake Hazards & Safety Technical Advisory Panel
Kentucky Division of Div. of Disaster & Emergency Services
EOC Building, Boone Center
Frankfort, KE 40506
(502) 564-8611

Mississippi

Mississippi Seismic Advisory Panel
Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
P.O. Box 4501, Fondren Station
Jackson, MS 39216
(601) 352-9100

Missouri

Missouri Earthquake Hazard Mitigation Panel
Missouri Emergency Management Agency
P.O. Box 116
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(314) 751-9779
FAX (314) 634-7966

Nevada

Nevada Seismic Safety Council
Division of Emergency Management
Capitol Complex
2525 South Carson St.
Carson City, NV 89710
(702) 687-4240
Fax: (702) 687-6788

New England States Earthquake Consortium (NESEC)

New England States Earthquake Consortium
501 Islington St
Portsmouth, NH 03801
(603) 430-9876
Fax: (603) 430-9875

FEMA 1993 (cont'd)

Oregon

Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Committee
595 Cottage St., NE
Salem, OR 97310
(503) 378-2903
Fax: (503) 588-1378

Puerto Rico

Comision de Seguridad Contra Terremotos
Pda. 3 1/2 Ave. Munoz Rivera
Pta. de Tierra Apartado Correo 5887
San Juan, PR 00906
(809) 722-8784
Fax: (809) 725-0350

South Carolina

South Carolina Seismic Safety Consortium
Dept. of Civil Engineering
The Citadel
Charleston, SC 29401
(803) 797-4208

Southeastern United States Seismic Safety Consortium

Southeastern United States Seismic Safety Consortium
Dept. of Civil Engineering
The Citadel
Charleston, SC 29401
(803) 797-4208

Tennessee

Tennessee Seismic Safety Advisory Panel
Tennessee Emergency Management Agency
Tennessee EOC
3041 Sidco Dr.
Nashville, TN 37204-1502
(615) 252-3311

Utah

Utah Earthquake Advisory Board
University of Utah Seismograph Stations
705 W. C. Browning Bldg.
Salt Lake City, UT 84112
(801) 581-6274
Fax: (801) 581-7065

Washington

Washington State Seismic Safety Advisory Committee
Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources
Geology & Earth Resources Division
P.O. Box 47007
Olympia, WA 98504-7007
(206) 902-1000
Fax: (206) 902-1785

Missouri Seismic Safety Commission

The Missouri Seismic Safety Commission's task is to review the State of Missouri's earthquake preparedness, response, mitigation and recovery issues and make a comprehensive "where we stand" report to the people of Missouri. Legislation creating the Commission was signed into being by Governor Mel Carnahan on June 25, 1993 and he has appointed fifteen distinguished Missourians to serve on this Commission. The commission has been working on the report since its confirmation, and will issue its report to the Governor and General Assembly on June 30, 1997.

Commission officers for the calendar year 1997 are:

Susan W. Clowe	American Red Cross
Marie Collins, P. E.	Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District
William L. Durbin, P. E., *Secretary*	Woodward Clyde Consultants
Dr. Phillip L. Gould, P. E., *Vice-Chair*	Washington University
Dr. Gregory L. Hempen, P.E.	U. S. Army corp of Engineers
Dr. Robert B. Herrmann, *Chair*	Saint Louis University
Sen. Jerry T. Howard	Senator, Missouri General Assembly
Ernest H. "Bud" Hunt	Daily Dunklin Democrat
Jennifer Marion, E. I. T.	City Utilities of Springfield
Robert E. Palmer	Melville Fire Protection District
Marilyn A. Roberts	State Farm Insurance
Thomas R. Schwetye, *Treasurer*	Schwetye Architects
Phyllis J. Steckel	Geologist, Washington, Missouri
Carol J. Tharp	Platte County Emergency Management Agency
John C. Theiss, P. E.	EQE International
Rep. Larry Thomason	Representative, Missouri General Assembly
Kennard O. Whitfield	Mayor, Rock Hill

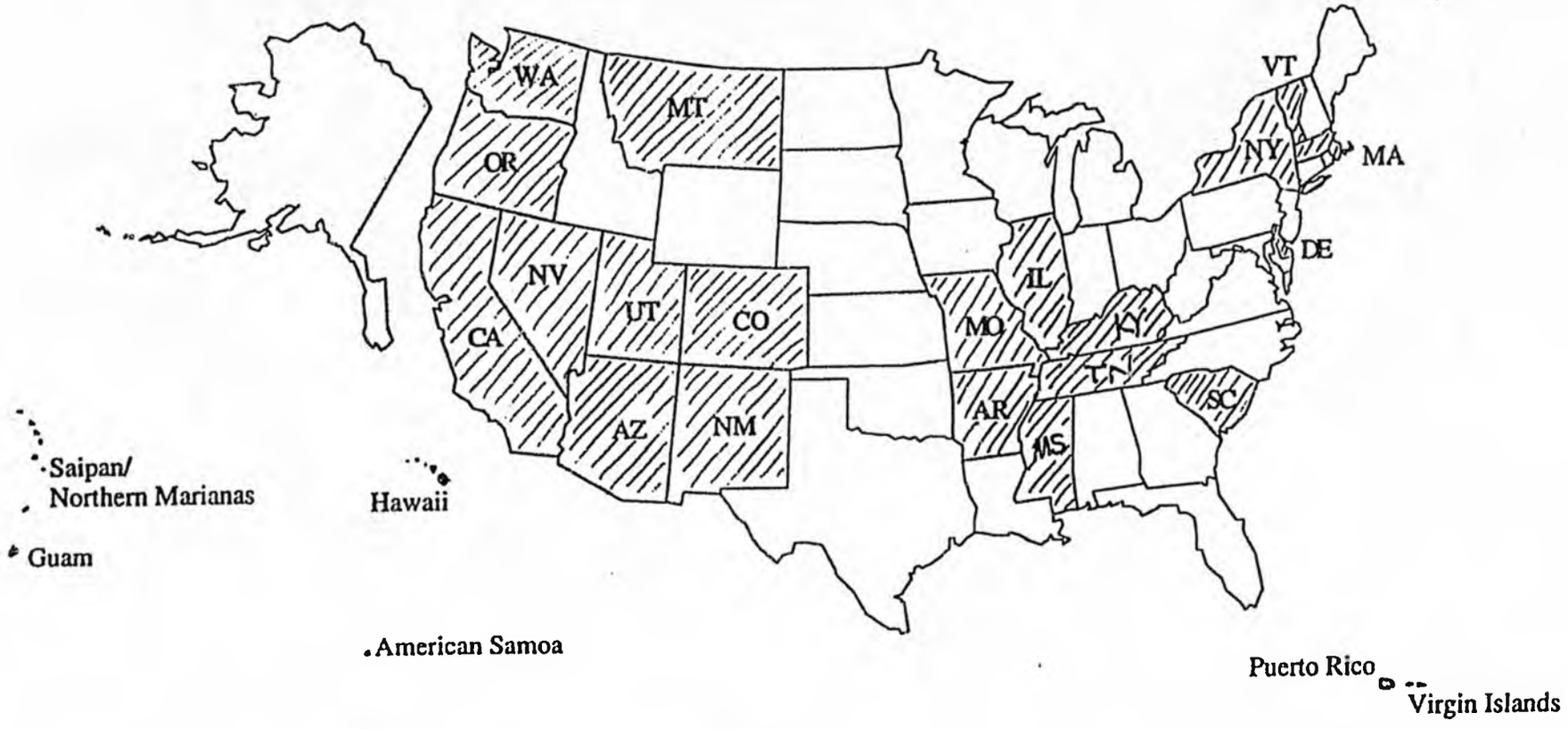
The Commission does its work primarily through four subcommittees that hold quarterly meetings at different locations. The committees are: Response, Recovery and Mitigation (Collins - Chair) Land Use Planning and Building Codes (Gould - Chair) Geotechnical Committee (Hempen - Chair) and Public Awareness and Education (Steckel - Chair).

The Commission and Committee meetings are open to the public under the Sunshine Law.

Interested persons may contact Ed Gray

Commission Publication and Useful Links

Return to previous page



National Seismic Safety Advisory Boards in 1996

Prod. by Rep. John Davies

Subject: Fw: RE: Alaska seismic commission bill
Date: Thu, 18 Apr 2002 14:37:10 -0800
From: Rod Combellick <rod@dnr.state.ak.us>
To: David Guttenberg <David_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us>
CC: "Rep. John Davies" <Representative_John_Davies@legis.state.ak.us>, Milt Wiltse <milt@dnr.state.ak.us>

David,

Here is a message from John Aho of CH2M Hill in support of HB 53. He sent it to me because he will be tied up in a meeting this afternoon and can't testify. Can this be forwarded for reading at the hearing?

Rod

From: "Aho, John/ANC" <JAho@CH2M.com>
Subject: RE: Alaska seismic commission bill
Date: Thu, 18 Apr 2002 16:22:39 -0600

I appreciate having the opportunity to express my support of House Bill 53 for establishing an Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission. Dr. Davies should be commended for for ongoing interest in seismic risk mitigation and his years of effort in attempting to get this Bill enacted. I currently serve as Chairman of the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Geotechnical Advisory Commission, the Advanced National Seismic System Alaska Region Advisory Committee, and the MOA Seismic Microzonation Advisory Panel. In these capacities I have witnessed the changes that come about when groups of individuals work together as champions of an effort such as seismic risk mitigation. To date, these efforts have been somewhat concentrated in the Anchorage area. A State Seismic Hazards Safety Commission would provide the vehicle for coordinating pre-earthquake risk mitigation efforts and post-earthquake recovery. By voting for passage of this Bill you will take the initial steps towards providing a coordinated effort in addressing future earthquake safety, risk mitigation, and post-earthquake recovery issues. I urge you to vote for this measure, it is one that will go a long way towards making Alaska a safer place in which to live.

Dr. John L. Aho
CH2M HILL
Vice
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Dr. John L. Aho
CH2M HILL
Vice
President and Principal Project Manager

Alaska State Legislature

Legislative Committees:
House Finance Committee

Legislative Budget Subcommittees:
University of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Environmental Conservation

119 N. Cushman Street Suite 207
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 456-8172
FAX (907) 451-9293

While in Session
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-4457
FAX (907) 465-3519

Representative John Davies
District 29

Date January 24, 2002

To: Senator Gene Therriault, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee

From: Representative John Davies

Re: Bill Scheduling-House Bill 53 "Seismic Hazards Safety Commission"

I am requesting that HB 53 "Seismic Hazards Safety Commission," be heard in the Senate State Affairs Committee at the earliest possible date.

HB 53 would establish the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission. The state of Alaska is on the edge of the Pacific Plate which acts like a conveyor belt, moving about six centimeters a year, the legislature needs to creates a seismic commission patterned after those in other states on major fault lines. An effort needs to be made to reduce disaster potential and increase disaster preparedness, and this bill does both.

Thank you for your consideration.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
Bill Version: CSHB 53(MLV)
(H) Publish Date: 3/30/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____
Dept. Affected: Natural Resources
Title: An Act establishing the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission
BRU: Minerals, Land & Water
Component: Geological Development
Sponsor: Davies
Requester: (H) MLV
Component Number: 1031

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	**1.2**	**1.2**	**1.2**	**1.2**	**1.2**	**1.2**
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	**1.2**	**1.2**	**1.2**	**1.2**	**1.2**	**1.2**

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: none

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

Costs to DGGS resulting from HB53 would be for modest staff time (approximately one-half person-month per year) plus travel associated with meetings. Salary costs would be covered under an existing position in DGGS which has responisiblities in geologic hazards that are consistent with work on this commission. The travel costs indicated above ($1,200 annually) assume two trips per year at an average cost of $600 per trip.

Prepared by: Milton Wiltse
Phone 907-451-5001
Division Geological & Geophysical Surveys
Date/Time 01-Feb-01
Approved by: Pat Pourchot
Date 01-Feb-01
Agency Natural Resources

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

(Rev 11/2000 OMB)

Fiscal Note: DNR

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: CSHB 53(MLV)
(H) Publish Date: 3/30/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Dept. Affected: Office of the Governor
Title: "An Act establishing the Alaska Seismi
Hazards Safety Commission."
BRU: Commissions and Special Offices
Component: Seismic Hazards Safety Commission
Sponsor: Representatives Davies, Hudson, Kertt
Requester: HSCMVA
Component Number:

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services	18.0	13.4	13.4	13.4	13.8	13.8
Travel	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Contractual	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Supplies	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	**33.5**	**28.9**	**28.9**	**28.9**	**29.3**	**29.3**
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	33.0	28.4	28.4	28.4	28.8	28.8
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	**33.5**	**28.9**	**28.9**	**28.9**	**29.3**	**29.3**

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time	1	1	1	1	1	1
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

Fiscal note assumes 1/4 time clerical staff to support commission activity as technical support needs will be met by existing staff in Department of Natural Resources; quarterly commission meetings -- 2 face-to-face and 2 teleconferenced. Travel costs reflect estimated meeting costs for 9 total commission members and one staff. Contractual reflects estimated postage, communicaton, advertising, and teleconference costs.

Fiscal note assumes existing departmental office space/equipment will be available for use by the part-time clerical staff position.

Prepared by: Michael A Nizich/man
Phone 465-3876
Division Administrative Services
Date/Time 1/30/01 12:30 PM
Approved by: David Ramseur
Date 01/30/2001
Agency Office of the Governor

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

(Rev 1/26/2000 OMB)

Fiscal Note: Gov's Office

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 53(STA)

IN THE I EGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/25/01
Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES DAVIES, Hudson, Kerttula, Green, Foster, James

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act establishing the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

* **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

(1) although the state has made significant improvements in disaster preparedness since the great earthquake of 1964, there has been little corresponding improvement in measures to reduce the disaster potential of major earthquakes and, consequently, to reduce dependence on disaster relief;

(2) there is a pressing need to provide a consistent policy framework and a means for continuing coordination of programs and public safety practices related to seismic hazards at all governmental levels and in the private sector; this need is not being addressed by any continuing state government organization;

(3) through concerted efforts coordinated by a Seismic Hazards Safety Commission, the state can make long-term progress toward mitigating the effects of seismic

hazards on persons and property, thereby reducing the costs of responding to and recovering from major earthquakes.

* **Sec. 2.** AS 44.19 is amended by adding new sections to read:

Article 13. Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission.

Sec. 44.19.635. Commission established; membership. (a) The Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission is established in the Office of the Governor. The Office of the Governor shall provide staff support to the commission.

(b) The commission is composed of nine members appointed by the governor for terms of three years. A member holds office until a successor is appointed. A vacancy is filled for the unexpired term.

(c) The governor shall appoint to the commission

(1) a representative from the University of Alaska;

(2) a representative from local government;

(3) a representative from the Department of Natural Resources;

(4) a representative from the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs;

(5) a representative from an appropriate federal agency;

(6) a representative of the insurance industry; and

(7) three members from members of the public who are expert in the fields of geology, seismology, hydrology, geotechnical engineering, structural engineering, emergency services, or planning.

(d) The commission shall elect annually from its members a chair and vice-chair. A majority of the commission may vote to replace an officer of the commission.

(e) Six members constitute a quorum.

(f) Members of the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission serve without compensation but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

Sec. 44.19.637. Powers and duties. (a) The commission shall

(1) recommend goals and priorities for seismic hazard mitigation to the public and private sectors;

(2) recommend policies to the governor and the legislature, including needed research, mapping, and monitoring programs;

(3) offer advice on coordinating disaster preparedness and seismic hazard mitigation activities of government at all levels, review the practices for recovery and reconstruction after a major earthquake, and recommend improvements to mitigate losses from similar future events;

(4) gather, analyze, and disseminate information of general interest on seismic hazard mitigation;

(5) establish and maintain necessary working relationships with other public and private agencies;

(6) review predictions and warnings issued by the federal government, research institutions, and other organizations and persons and suggest appropriate responses at the state and local levels; and

(7) review proposed seismic hazard notifications and supporting information from state agencies, evaluate possible socioeconomic consequences, recommend that the governor issue formal seismic hazard notifications when appropriate, and advise state and local agencies of appropriate responses.

(b) The commission may

(1) advise the governor and the legislature on disaster preparedness and seismic hazard mitigation and on budgets for those activities and may recommend legislation or policies to improve disaster preparedness or seismic hazard mitigation;

(2) conduct public hearings;

(3) appoint committees from its membership and appoint external advisory committees of ex-officio members; and

(4) accept grants, contributions, and appropriations from public agencies, private foundations, and individuals.

Sec. 44.19.639. Definitions. In AS 44.19.635 - 44.19.639,

(1) "commission" means the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission;

(2) "disaster preparedness" means establishing plans and programs for responding to and distributing funds to alleviate losses from a disaster as defined in

AS 26.23.900;

(3) "seismic hazard mitigation" or "mitigation" mean activities that prevent or alleviate the harmful effects of seismic hazards to persons and property, including identification and evaluation of the seismic hazards, assessment of the risks, and implementation of measures to reduce potential losses before a damaging event occurs.

*** Sec. 3.** AS 44.66.010(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(20) Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission (AS 44.19.635) -- June 30, 2005.

*** Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

INITIAL TERMS. Notwithstanding AS 44.19.635, enacted by sec. 2 of this Act, three initial members of the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission shall serve terms of two years, and three initial members shall serve terms of four years.

*** Sec. 5.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

CONSTRUCTION. This Act is not intended to transfer to the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission the authorities and responsibilities of other state agencies, boards, councils, or commissions or of local governments.

DOWL ENGINEERS
A Division of DOWL LLC

March 14, 2001
W.O. D00001

The Honorable John Davies
House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Room 422
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Subject: House Bill 53
Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission

Dear John:

As a practicing civil engineering in the State of Alaska, I wholeheartedly support HB 53 pertaining to the establishment of a state Seismic Hazards Safety Commission. I have been practicing my profession in Alaska for over 25 years. My technical specialties are geotechnical engineering and earthquake engineering, so I routinely deal with the problems associated with seismic hazards and their mitigation throughout the state. Moreover, I have been a member of the Municipality of Anchorage Geotechnical Advisory Commission (GAC) for over 20 years (currently Vice-Chairman). In that role, my fellow commissioners and I have routinely advised the Municipality regarding identification and mitigation of seismic hazards in Anchorage.

Although major earthquakes seemingly are "rare" events, their consequences literally can be disastrous, as was demonstrated by the 1964 great Alaska earthquake. Because of the damage and loss of life that occurred in Anchorage in 1964, and due to the concerns of local engineers and earth scientists, Anchorage established the Geotechnical Advisory Commission to advise our local government officials and citizens about earthquake hazards that can affect our community. The GAC generally has been the only real resource in those matters Anchorage has been able to rely upon consistently and effectively through the years. I believe the commission has had a positive effect on how our community has developed, and how it has taken appropriate steps to mitigate the seismic hazards with which we must live. Most of these efforts have been, and continue to be, through identification and mapping of the local hazards, and recommending mitigation measures to preserve life safety and to minimize economic impacts when the next major quake impacts our city.

Recent earthquakes in California and the February 28, 2001, earthquake near Seattle underscore the consequences even moderate earthquakes can have in urban areas. Moreover, the benefits to a community of understanding regional and local seismic issues and taking steps to mitigate the associated hazards were clearly demonstrated again during the Nisqually (Seattle) earthquake.

I believe it is imperative that the State Legislature of one of the most seismically active regions in the world establish a statewide Seismic Hazard Safety Commission to help its citizens and those responsible for their general well being understand the seismic environment in which they live, and how best to deal with the hazards that can affect them.

4040 B STREET • ANCHORAGE • ALASKA • 99503 • 907/562-2000 • FAX 907/563-3853

Letter of Support

John, I applaud your sponsorship of this bill and give it my full support. If there is anything else I can do for you in this matter, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,
DOWL Engineers

David A. Cole, P.E.
Project Manager

D00001.RepDavies.DAC.031401.mas

USGS Reducing Earthquake Losses Throughout the United States

Seismic Maps Foster Landmark Legislation

When a powerful earthquake strikes an urban region, damage concentrates not only near the quake's source. Damage can also occur many miles from the source in areas of soft ground. In recent years, scientists have developed ways to identify and map these areas of high seismic hazard. This advance has spurred pioneering legislation to reduce earthquake losses in areas of greatest hazard.

Television cameras broadcasting the start of the 1989 World Series instead recorded the urban devastation from a major earthquake striking Northern California. Four hours after the earthquake struck, homes in San Francisco's prosperous Marina District still burned out of control from fires started by broken gas lines; the shock severely damaged or destroyed 70 residential buildings in the district. Across San Francisco Bay in Oakland, the collapse of the double-decker Cypress freeway structure trapped more than 160 people, 42 of whom died.

Both of these grim spectacles from the magnitude 7.1 Loma Prieta, California, earthquake occurred more than 50 miles from the temblor's source in areas underlain by soft soil (loose sediment, uncompacted fill, and mud). In contrast, structures built on rock and firm soil, which underlie most of San Francisco and Oakland, were largely unscathed. Near the earthquake's epicenter, however, shaking was violent enough to cause considerable damage even in areas underlain by rock and firm soil.

(Click on image for a full size version - 101K)
Buildings constructed on uncompacted fills and soft soils are especially vulnerable to earthquake shaking damage. In this photo, taken four hours after the 1989 Loma Prieta, California, earthquake had struck, homes in San Francisco's Marina District still burn out of control from fires started by broken gas lines. The district was built on artificial fill that included rubble from the great quake of 1906. Scientists can identify areas where such shaking damage is likely to be especially severe. (Photo by Martin Klimek, Marin Independent Journal.)

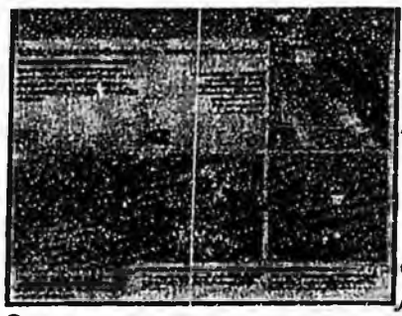
This localization of severe shaking and damage was no surprise. It had been noted in previous San Francisco-area earthquakes, as early as 1868. Only after the devastating 1964 magnitude 9.2 Alaska earthquake, however, did the nation direct much attention toward understanding and mapping earthquake hazards. In the late 1960's, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) launched a program to develop methods for identifying and mapping areas of potential earthquake hazard.

An early product of this program was a series of maps showing the locations of active segments of the San Andreas Fault in California. These maps demonstrated the feasibility of identifying faults that might rupture the ground surface in future earthquakes. This capability lead to new strategies to reduce losses from such ruptures. In 1972, the California Legislature passed a landmark law requiring the

USGS Article

identification of seismic-hazard zones along faults. In these zones, special geologic studies are required before structures can be built for human occupancy. This law has successfully prevented homes, schools, and offices from being built across active faults.

The major cause of earthquake damage, however, is strong ground shaking, not the rupture of the ground surface by faulting. Strong shaking damages or collapses weak structures over wide areas. It also triggers ground failures (fracturing, sliding, and slumping), which in turn damage or destroy structures and disrupt utility and transportation systems. In the mid-1970's, the USGS published an innovative map of the ground-shaking hazard for part of the San Francisco Bay region. This map was used by local and regional government bodies to develop seismic safety policies. The map predicted that shaking on soft ground would be several times as intense as that on nearby rock. Some engineers and scientists were skeptical of these predictions, but records of strong shaking and patterns of damage in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake verified the predictions. The map had correctly showed the Marina District and the area of the Cypress freeway structure as being subject to violent shaking during earthquakes.



(Click on image for a full size version - 83K)

Seismic hazard maps further legislation to reduce earthquake losses: *This map sequence illustrates the shaking hazard in San Francisco for a possible repeat of the great 1906 earthquake. Such maps provide information essential for developing effective seismic safety policies and laws.*

1-Effect of distance on shaking: *Expected ground shaking on bedrock decreases rapidly with increasing distance from the San Andreas Fault, from very violent (red) to moderate (green).*

2-Effect of ground type on shaking: *The capability of ground type to amplify shaking varies from very high for mud and uncompacted fill, to moderate for sandy soil, to low for soft rock, and to none for hard rock.*

3-Expected ground shaking: *This map combines information from Maps 1 and 2 to show expected shaking levels throughout San Francisco.*

4-Areas of most intense shaking: *This map, derived from Map 3, shows in red the areas of most intense shaking where efforts to reduce earthquake losses should be focused.*

Faced with the disastrous losses from the Loma Prieta shock, the California Legislature realized that stronger measures were needed to combat earthquake hazards. In 1990, the Legislature passed the California Seismic Hazards Mapping Act to assist cities and counties in protecting public health and safety against such hazards. This law requires the State Geologist to make maps of seismic hazard zones, identifying areas prone to violent shaking and ground failure. It also requires that evaluation of these potential hazards precede approval of construction projects within defined hazard zones and that buyers of real estate be notified when the property lies within such a zone. This act builds on the success of both the 1972 law and the early maps of predicted ground shaking.

(Click on image for a full size version - 72K)

Experience in many states reveals that seismic hazard maps serve diverse audiences. Users of these maps include buyers and owners of real estate, geotechnical consultants and engineers, financial institutions, utility and transportation companies, emergency managers, and government planners.

Mapping seismic hazards is especially important in urban areas of earthquake-prone regions of the United States. Such areas have large populations and huge investments in structures and lifelines that are at risk from earthquakes. Potential losses from future urban earthquakes are staggering. For example, a repeat of the 1886 Charleston, South Carolina, earthquake today would cause an estimated 2,000

fatalities and $5 billion of damage. In the central Mississippi Valley region, projected losses from a repeat of an 1811 earthquake are 6,000 lives and $50 billion of damage.

Crucial to reducing these potential losses is sound geologic knowledge leading to effective seismic safety policies and legislation.

Roger D. Borcherdt, Robert B. Brown, Robert A. Page, Carl M. Wentworth, and James W. Hendley II

COOPERATING AGENCIES, COMPANIES, AND INSTITUTIONS
Association of Bay Area Governments California Division of Mines and Geology City of San Francisco

For more information contact:
Earthquake Information Hotline (415) 329-4085
U.S. Geological Survey, MS 977
345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025
USGS Menlo Park Earthquakes Home Page

U.S. Geological Survey Fact Sheet-097-95, March 1995

Web page by Will Prescott - 1996 April 9

FEMA 1993

Appendix I

Existing Seismic Safety Advisory Boards

Arizona

Arizona Council for Earthquake Safety
Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs
Division of Emergency Services
5636 E. McDowell Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85008
Phone: (602) 231-6238
Fax: (602) 231-6231

Arkansas

Arkansas Earthquake Advisory Council
Arkansas Office of Emergency Services
P.O. Box 758
Conway, AR 72032-0758
(501) 329-5601
Fax: (501) 327-8047

California

Seismic Safety Commission
1900 K St., Ste. 100
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 322-4917
Fax: (916) 322-9476

Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC)

Central United States Earthquake Consortium
2630 E. Holmes Rd.
Memphis, TN 38118
(901) 345-0932
Fax: (901) 345-0998

Hawaii

Hawaii State Earthquake Advisory Board
Office of the Director of Civil Defense
3949 Diamond Head Road
Honolulu, HA 96816-4495
(808) 734-2161
Fax: (808) 737-4150

Illinois

Illinois Earthquake Advisory Board
Illinois Emergency Services & Disaster Agency
110 East Adams St.
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-4448

Indiana

Indiana Seismic Safety Advisory Board
Indiana State Emergency Management Agency
IN GOVT CTR S/302 W. Washington St. E208
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-3986
FAX (317) 232-3895

Kentucky

Governor's Earthquake Hazards & Safety Technical Advisory Panel
Kentucky Division of Div. of Disaster & Emergency Services
EOC Building, Boone Center
Frankfort, KE 40506
(502) 564-8611

Mississippi

Mississippi Seismic Advisory Panel
Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
P.O. Box 4501, Fondren Station
Jackson, MS 39216
(601) 352-9100

Missouri

Missouri Earthquake Hazard Mitigation Panel
Missouri Emergency Management Agency
P.O. Box 116
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(314) 751-9779
FAX (314) 634-7966

Nevada

Nevada Seismic Safety Council
Division of Emergency Management
Capitol Complex
2525 South Carson St.
Carson City, NV 89710
(702) 687-4240
Fax: (702) 687-6788

New England States Earthquake Consortium (NESEC)

New England States Earthquake Consortium
501 Islington St
Portsmouth, NH 03801
(603) 430-9876
Fax: (603) 430-9875

What Other States Have Done

FEMA 1993 (cont'd)

Oregon

Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Committee
595 Cottage St., NE
Salem, OR 97310
(503) 378-2903
Fax: (503) 588-1378

Puerto Rico

Comision de Seguridad Contra Terremotos
Pda. 3 1/2 Ave. Munoz Rivera
Pta. de Tierra Apartado Correo 5887
San Juan, PR 00906
(809) 722-8784
Fax: (809) 725-0350

South Carolina

South Carolina Seismic Safety Consortium
Dept. of Civil Engineering
The Citadel
Charleston, SC 29401
(803) 797-4208

Southeastern United States Seismic Safety Consortium

Southeastern United States Seismic Safety Consortium
Dept. of Civil Engineering
The Citadel
Charleston, SC 29401
(803) 797-4208

Tennessee

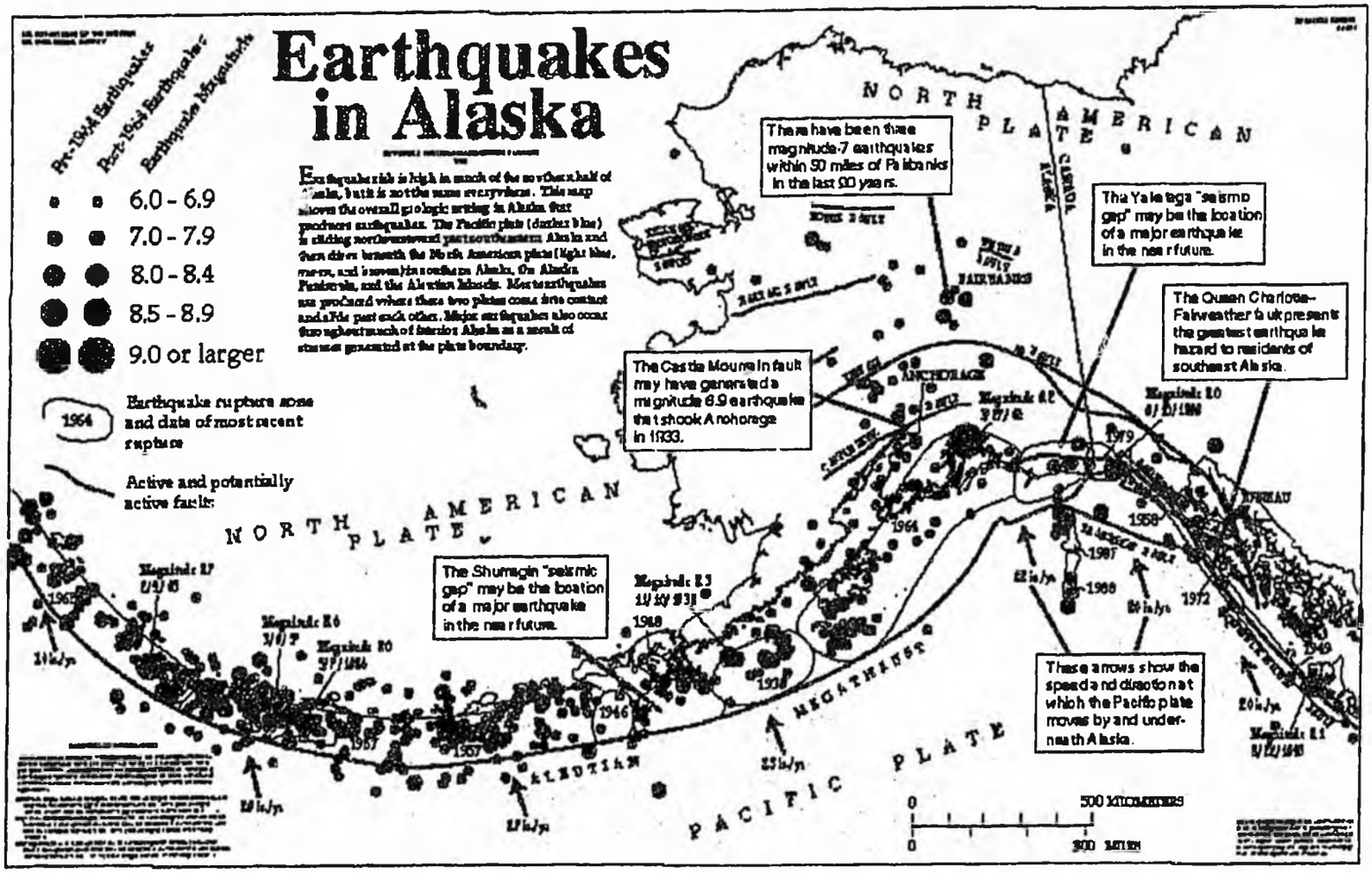
Tennessee Seismic Safety Advisory Panel
Tennessee Emergency Management Agency
Tennessee EOC
3041 Sidco Dr.
Nashville, TN 37204-1502
(615) 252-3311

Utah

Utah Earthquake Advisory Board
University of Utah Seismograph Stations
705 W. C. Browning Bldg.
Salt Lake City, UT 84112
(801) 581-6274
Fax: (801) 581-7065

Washington

Washington State Seismic Safety Advisory Committee
Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources
Geology & Earth Resources Division
P.O. Box 47007
Olympia, WA 98504-7007
(206) 902-1000
Fax: (206) 902-1785



Earthquakes Map

Alaska State Legislature

Legislative Committees:
House Finance Committee

Legislative Budget Subcommittees:
University of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Environmental Conservation

119 N. Cushman Street Suite 207
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 456-8172
FAX (907) 451-9293

While in Session
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-4457
FAX (907) 465-3519

Representative John Davies
District 29

SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Bill 53
"An act establishing the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission"

A Seismic Hazards Safety commission needs to be established to address the pressing need to provide a consistent policy framework and a means for ongoing coordination of programs and public safety practices related to seismic hazards. Currently this need is not being addressed by any continuing state government organization. The seismic Hazard Safety Commission would encourage long-term progress toward mitigating the effects of earthquakes.

Alaska is on the edge of the Pacific Plate, which acts like a relentless conveyor belt, moving about six centimeters a year. It is inevitable that there will be large earth quakes, the only question is when will they occur, not if they will occur. Although the state has made great improvements in disaster preparedness there has been little corresponding improvement in measures to reduce the disaster potential of major earthquakes and, consequently, to reduce dependence on disaster relief. Creating a seismic commission patterned after those in California, Oregon, Washington and other states on major fault lines will help address the issues. If you prepare for a major earthquake ahead of time and prepare appropriately, when the earthquake does occur less damage will result, less lives will be lost and the cost of recovery will be less.

Through ten years of experience as state seismologist I have extensive knowledge in this subject area. I have first hand experience with the difficulty if coordinating earthquake information for the university and state, federal, and municipal governments. Anchorage does have an active geo-tech advisory commission, but the state needs to strengthen that work while

broadening efforts throughout the state. A Seismic Safety Hazards Commission can provide that strength.

The scientific community is working hard on earthquake prediction, but it is not yet a reality, except in the most general sense. We can predict in a probabilistic way where earthquakes are likely to occur so we can focus resources in those areas, but in terms of knowing the date and time of occurrence of earthquakes we will not have that information for some time, if ever.

The state can mitigate possible effects of earthquakes by encouraging appropriate land use and building design so it can reduce loss of life and property, as well as the costs of recovery when earthquakes occur. It costs a lot of money to rebuild after a large earthquake and, of course there is no way to replace lost lives; so it is clearly worth spending some time and money before earthquakes occur to prepare for them. If mitigation efforts are undertaken at the time a building or subdivision is in the planning stages, the costs are relatively minor compared to retrofit or rebuilding. This commission would help our state be better prepared.

Members of the commission would be appointed by the governor to represent the university and governmental agencies, as well as members of the public who are knowledgeable in earthquake hazard mitigation. The commission would recommend to the public and governmental sector goals and priorities for reducing earthquake effects. The commission may accept grant contributions and appropriations from public agencies, private foundations, and individuals. The authority and responsibilities of other state agencies, boards, councils, commissions or local governments are not intended to transfer to the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission.