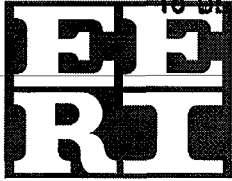


18 DEC 6 PM 4:30



EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Board of Directors

David A. Friedman, *President*
Laurie A. Johnson, *President Elect*
Danielle Mieler, *Vice President*
Lucy Arendt, *Secretary/Treasurer*

John G. Anderson
Ross Boulanger
Gregory G. Deierlein
Tara C. Hutchinson

Judith Mitrani-Reiser
Sissy Nikolaou
Barry H. Welliver

Executive Director
Heidi Tremayne

December 6, 2018

Subject: Support for Oakland Mandatory Soft-Story Seismic Retrofit Ordinance

Dear Oakland City Council:

I am writing on behalf of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) in support of the Mandatory Soft-Story Seismic Retrofit Ordinance. The mission of EERI is to support individuals, communities, and organizations with a common interest in reducing earthquake risk, which includes advocating for comprehensive and realistic measures for reducing the harmful effects of earthquakes. Our membership includes professionals in a wide range of seismic safety-related scientific and design disciplines, including but not limited to architects, planners, seismologists, structural engineers, and public policy professionals. This ordinance is aligned with EERI's policy position on creating resilient communities, and EERI has encouraged its local members to support initial screening work used to identify at-risk soft story buildings in Oakland. This legislation follows on that foundation.

With our headquarters located in Downtown Oakland, we are intimately familiar with how the shortage of housing in the Bay Area is putting extreme pressure on residents and especially renters. Even as we work diligently to build new housing, we must protect the housing we already have. We have witnessed in the devastating Camp Fire and the North Bay Fires how quickly natural disasters can undo our efforts to build and maintain affordable housing. As a function of their age, soft-story buildings in Oakland are often de-facto affordable units that are highly vulnerable to damage in an earthquake. Recent ABAG studies show that 32,200 buildings could become uninhabitable and 75,500 households could be displaced in Alameda County alone in a very likely Hayward Fault earthquake. Most of this impact will be from the loss of multi-family buildings. This ordinance will effectively mitigate the potential impact from an impending earthquake.

A recent National Institute of Building Sciences study found that \$1 spent today on mitigation, such as seismic retrofitting, will save \$3 after an earthquake. Retrofitting also keeps residents in their homes, avoids the social and economic stress of displacement, and reduces the environmental impacts of demolishing and rebuilding damaged buildings.

This ordinance builds upon the successful mandatory retrofitting efforts in other Bay Area cities, such as Berkeley, Fremont and San Francisco. In starting now, Oakland will benefit from the technical expertise and efficiencies gained by contractors and engineers that have performed retrofits in neighboring jurisdictions.

This ordinance is rational and pragmatic and will go a long way toward keeping Oaklanders in Oakland after the next major earthquake while also taking steps to preserve and expand the rental housing in the city today. We strongly support your efforts to create a more resilient Oakland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Friedman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David A. Friedman
President