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December 17, 1990

## MEMORANDUM

TO: UACIR Earthquake Task Force members

FROM: M. Lee Allison 

SUBJECT: Results of the December 7, 1990, ACIR meeting regarding earthquake issues.

At the December 7 meeting of ACIR, Richard North (Legislative General Council for the State and Local Affairs Interim Committee) presented the Natural Disaster Commission bill (HB 11) and received comments. There was general support for the bill, although various ACIR members had concerns regarding specific language. I then presented the Task Force's comments compiled from your responses to my earlier memo (copy enclosed). It was decided that we will get together with Richard North and the bill's sponsors (Representatives Donald LeBaron and Ray Nielsen) to work out language to amend it (if necessary). Amendments will probably be made in committee meetings during the legislative session. The ACIR voted to endorse the bill, in concept.

Senator Craig Peterson indicated that he and Representative Donald LeBaron plan to re-introduce a version of last year's seismic instrumentation bill, and the ACIR voted to endorse that bill, in concept, also.

I then presented the "short list" of remaining priorities sent to each of you by FAX (also enclosed herein) on Thursday, December 6, and stressed that we recommend action on the additional four items at the bottom of the list. The ACIR then voted to recommend this additional legislation, and urged the Task Force to find sponsors.

In this regard, I believe that Representative Kim Burningham is considering introducing a bill for vulnerability assessments of schools again, and Representative John Valentine may introduce a bill addressing urban search and rescue. I will check into this further. The only one of our priority items for which, to my knowledge, we still need to find a sponsor is the one addressing plan checks. If you have any recommendations, please let me know.

I hope all of you will actively participate in supporting this legislation during the session. We will be in contact if we need your help at committee hearings or other activities.

# CRITICAL NEEDS FOR 1991 EARTHQUAKE LEGISLATION

as drawn from

## UACIR EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

December 6, 1991

The Utah Advisory Council for Intergovernmental Relations (UACIR) staff requested that the UACIR Earthquake Task Force's list of priorities for earthquake legislation be further prioritized to include only those critical and urgent needs which must be addressed by the 1991 legislature. This list is presented below, in order of priority.

### LEGISLATION ALREADY PREPARED AND SPONSORED

- 1) **Establish a Seismic Safety Commission to oversee and coordinate the state earthquake program.**
  - the State and Local Affairs Interim Committee has prepared legislation (HB 11, Natural Disaster Commission); Representatives Donald LeBaron and Ray Nielsen, sponsors.
- 2) **Earthquake instrumentation.**
  - to be filed; Senator Craig Peterson and Representative Donald LeBaron, sponsors.

### ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION NEEDED

- 1) **Require that fees collected by local governments for building plan checks be used for that purpose to more effectively implement the Uniform Building Code structural/seismic provisions.**
  - No appropriation necessary
- 2) **Assess seismic vulnerability of schools and fire stations.**
  - Schools - \$250,000
  - Fire Stations - \$190,000
- 3) **Increase public awareness to improve personal and family preparedness.**
  - \$50,000 state funds to CEM; \$50,000 federal match
- 4) **Training for disaster preparedness and urban search and rescue.**
  - \$60,000 state and/or local government funds; \$60,000 federal match

December 7, 1990

MEMORANDUM

To: Utah Advisory Council for Intergovernmental Relations  
From: UACIR Earthquake Task Force  
Subject: Comments on HB 11, Natural Disaster Commission

Members of the UACIR Earthquake Task Force were asked to submit their individual comments on the Natural Disaster Commission bill passed by the State and Local Affairs Interim Committee at their October meeting. Below is a compilation of all comments received as of December 7, 1990. Respondents were: Walter Arabasz, Lee Allison, Larry Reaveley, Jerrianne Kolby, David Johnson, and Peter McDonough.

P. 1, line 22 through p. 2, line 21: Section 63-5b-101(3).

Additional commission members representing the American Red Cross, the State Health Department, and the utility companies (perhaps a shared membership with UDOT) were recommended.

P. 2, line 5, item f:

The agency title is incorrect. Reword to read: (f) one representative from the University of Utah Seismograph Stations.

P. 2, line 19, item m:

Suggest rewording this to read: (m) an architect, duly licenced by the state of Utah, from the private sector;

P. 2, line 20, item n:

Suggest rewording this to read: (n) an engineer, familiar with structural design and duly licenced by the state of Utah, from the private sector.

P. 2, lines 22-25: Section 63-5b-101(4).

Suggest staggering terms of initial appointments so that the entire commission is not replaced every 4 years. There must be some overlap to provide continuity. A maximum limit of two terms for any one member was also suggested.

P. 3, line 11, item (6):

Staff for the commission is somewhat vague. Suggest that establishment of a full-time executive director position be included.

P. 3, line 17, item (a):

Delete the word research, and reword to read: (a) analyze information about natural disasters. The commission cannot be expected to conduct its own research.

P. 3, lines 18-23, item (b):

Add the Energy and Natural Resource Committee of the legislature to the list of groups to which the commission must provide copies of its priority list(s).

P. 3, line 15 through p. 4, line 17; Section 63-5b-102.

The purpose of the Seismic Safety Commission as proposed by the UACIR Earthquake Task Force was to establish a coordinated state program to reduce earthquake hazards. A principal part of this would be to clearly define necessary actions, propose time-tables and identify the state agencies or other parties responsible for implementation of these actions, and monitor progress. This overall purpose of the Commission and these leadership and planning responsibilities need to be more clearly stated in the bill.

P. 4, lines 4-5:

The Division of Comprehensive Emergency Management presently oversees such planning. Suggest deleting the word oversee and reword to read: (d) encourage the development and implementation...

P. 4, additional lines following line 17.

Additional duties are suggested for the commission to include:

- (j) help ensure that proper data are collected for understanding and forecasting natural hazards effects.
- (k) accept and distribute appropriations, grants, and contributions.
- (l) set up committees and house other boards.

A general comment is that all duties use soft language (recommend, review, and encourage), and stronger language would give the commission a stronger posture.