



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
UTAH GEOLOGICAL AND MINERAL SURVEY

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Mike Christensen
Office of Planning and Budget
State Capitol

Dear Mike:

The state earthquake program seems to have hit a roadblock and it is up to us to start it moving again. According to Richard North the State and Local Affairs Interim Committee is not scheduling any more action or discussion on earthquakes even though it is my recollection that Chairman Bradshaw specifically told the committee at the October meeting to take home our prioritization and cost list to review. My understanding was they meant to act on the ACIR Earthquake Task Force recommendations at the November meeting. That does not appear to be what will happen.

As you recall, at the last ACIR meeting the council unanimously endorsed the proposal that the full earthquake agenda should be addressed in the upcoming legislative session. This was in response to my comments that a few people wanted the proposed seismic safety commission ("Natural Disaster Commission") to address these issues after its creation, effectively putting the state earthquake program on hold for a year. A poll of the Earthquake Task Force showed 2 to 1 in favor of going ahead with the full program immediately.

What was the point of the Task Force spending all that time and effort to evaluate possible legislation and assign priorities and costs if the Interim Committee and ACIR was simply going to shelve it all? Somewhere the idea of presenting a complete, coordinated, integrated set of bills addressing the issues has been lost. If the Natural Disaster Commission bill were to fail we would be left with nothing.

I urge you to contact the Interim Committee chairmen on behalf of ACIR and the Task Force and ask that the rest of the earthquake issues be considered.

Best regards,


M. Lee Allison
Director

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