September 10, 2012

John D. Schelling
Earthquake Program Manager
Mitigation Section, Bldg.20, M/S: TA-20
Camp Murray, Washington 98430-5122

Re: The Great Washington Shakeout

Dear John,

The American Institute of Architects is a strong advocate of enhancing the preparedness and resilience of the built environment to natural disasters. The Disaster Assistance Program at AIA National and our colleagues at AIA Washington are excited for the opportunity to participate in the Great Shakeout on October 18.

In the aftermath of large-scale disasters, such as the earthquake envisioned in this exercise, architects will serve a crucial role in evaluating building safety, collecting data on the extent of the damage, and envisioning the long-term recovery of communities throughout Washington. It is encouraging to see the level of commitment and support that has been generated for the Great Shakeout and the AIA is proud to play a part in the effort. Our team of volunteer architects and engineers, in collaboration with Architects Without Borders and the Structural Engineers of Washington has provided voluntary building safety assessments for jurisdictions and their residents in Washington, Mississippi and Haiti.

Sincerely,

Stan L. Bowman, Hon. AIA|WA
Executive Director
AIA Washington Council

Rachel Minnery, AIA
Washington Disaster Assistance Coordinator

Cooper Martin,
AIA National Manager of Community Resilience

For 20 years, the American Institute of Architects in Washington has worked in close collaboration with the Structural Engineers Association of Washington (SEAW), the Washington Association of Building Officials (WABO), and Architects Without Borders – Seattle to engage architects and other built environment design professionals in disaster response and resilience in Washington state.

Copy to: Cale Ash, Degenkolb Engineers
Joyce Lem, SEAW Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee Chair