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# California Capitol Hill Bulletin

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*To expand communications between Washington and California, the California Institute provides periodic faxed bulletins regarding current activity on Capitol Hill which directly impacts our state. Bulletins are published weekly during sessions of Congress, and occasionally during other periods. The e-mail edition is made possible in part by in-kind contributions from Sun Microsystems and IBM Corp.*

## DELEGATION SENDS LETTER OPPOSING FEMA EARTHQUAKE RULE

The California Congressional Delegation sent a letter to Chair James Walsh (NY) and Ranking Member Alan Mollohan (WV) of the VA-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee asking for their leadership in opposing FEMA's promulgation of a rule requiring public buildings to obtain private insurance as a condition of receiving federal disaster aid. See, [Bulletin, Vol. 8, No. 14 \(5/4/01\)](#). Forty-nine members of the delegation signed the letter.

It asks Walsh and Mollohan to express their concerns to FEMA Director Joseph Allbaugh when he testifies before the subcommittee and to prevent the promulgation of a rule until such time as the agency provides Congress with an "acceptable, comprehensive" study of the insurance issue.

In 1999-2000, the bipartisan congressional delegation, in a coordinated effort with the Governor and many state and local California officials, was successful in turning back an effort by FEMA to impose harsh natural disaster insurance requirements on public buildings.

## ENERGY & COMMERCE SUBCOMMITTEE CONSIDERS AND PASSES CALIFORNIA ENERGY BILL

On Thursday, May 10, the House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality marked up and passed a revised Chairman's substitute for H.R. 1647, the Electricity Emergency Act of 2001, which seeks to address the crisis facing California and its energy market. The bill now moves to full committee markup, expected as early as next week. Debate and statements are summarized here; details of the Subcommittee's actions are described in the next article.

Calling it "the only game in town," Subcommittee Chair Joe Barton (TX) commented that the bill will not eliminate blackouts this summer but will reduce the likelihood for them if it can be passed and signed quickly. He said the bill allows independent generators known as qualifying facilities (QFs) to sell

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