

# [3DEP COALITION](#)

April 8, 2019

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Chairwoman

The Honorable David Joyce  
Ranking Member

Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce:

We, the undersigned organizations, enthusiastically support the U.S. Geological Survey's 3D Elevation Program ([3DEP](#)). As you develop FY 2020 appropriations, we ask for your support for the USGS recommendation to provide [\\$146 million](#) to 3DEP, as requested by John Palatiello, on behalf of the [3DEP Coalition](#), in his [testimony](#) before the Subcommittee on February 26.

3DEP will satisfy the growing demand for consistent, high-quality topographic data and a wide range of other three-dimensional representations of the Nation's natural and constructed features. The USGS has identified more than [600 applications](#) that would benefit from enhanced elevation data. Data procured from 3DEP can be applied to [flood risk management](#); [infrastructure](#); [landslides and other hazards](#); water resources; aviation safety; telecommunications; homeland security; emergency response; [precision agriculture](#); [energy](#); [pipeline safety](#); and other areas. 3DEP will promote economic growth, facilitate responsible environmental protection and resource development and management, assist with infrastructure improvement, and generally enhance the quality of life of all Americans.

The USGS, with involvement from the private sector and other stakeholders, conducted a National Enhanced Elevation Assessment ([NEEA](#)), to determine and document the need for national elevation data within government and private markets. The results indicated that enhanced elevation data could have the potential to generate \$13 billion in annual benefits, at a benefit-to-cost ratio of 4.7 to 1. The \$146 million we are requesting will enable USGS to achieve nationwide coverage of the United States on an 8-year cycle, as originally conceived in the USGS plan for 3DEP.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views and we look forward to working with the subcommittee to continue the work to build on past success and further improve the Interior Department's surveying, mapping and geospatial activities including the collection, management and dissemination of enhanced elevation data through the USGS 3DEP.

Respectfully,

Ellen Bergfeld, PhD, CEO  
Alliance of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science Societies



James Ballentine, EVP, Congressional Relations and Political Affairs



Dan Hilton, Director of Procurement Advocacy & International Affairs  
American Council of Engineering Companies



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cc: Chairwoman Nita Lowey and Ranking Member Kay Granger, Fellow Committee Members

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