

[3DEP COALITION](#)

April 8, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairwoman

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member

Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

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 House Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies 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
American Bankers Association



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



Allyson K. Anderson Book, Executive Director
American Geosciences Institute



Aaron W. Johnson, Executive Director
American Institute of Professional Geologists



Suzanne Lemieux, Manager, Midstream and Industry Operations
American Petroleum Institute



Nathaniel F. Wienecke, Senior Vice President for Federal Government Relations
American Property Casualty Insurance Association



Marty Williams, Government Affairs Manager
American Public Works Association



Michael W. Neff, Executive Director
American Society for Horticultural Science



Ellen Bergfeld, PhD, CEO
American Society of Agronomy



Brian Pallasch, Managing Director of Government Relations and Infrastructure Initiatives
American Society of Civil Engineers



Stephen Frerichs, Government Relations Contractor
American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers



Dresden Farrand, MPA, MPP, CAE, Executive Vice President/CEO
American Water Resources Association



Tommy Holmes, Legislative Director
American Water Works Association



Karen Berry, President
Association of American State Geologists



David F. Fenster, President
Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists



Chad Berginnis, Executive Director
Association of State Floodplain Managers



Ellen Bergfeld, PhD, CEO
Crop Science Society of America



Whit Remer, Counsel & Director, Public Policy
Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety



Marty Shaub, CEM
U.S. Council, International Association of Emergency Managers



Gabe Maser, Vice President, Federal Relations
International Code Council



Sue Lowry, Executive Director
Interstate Council on Water Policy



John Farner, Government and Public Affairs Director
Irrigation Association



John Peterson, Director of Government Relations
Land Improvement Contractors of America



Andrew Moore, Executive Director
National Agricultural Aviation Association



Alex Rossello, Manager, Public Policy
National Apartment Association



Joe McKinney, Executive Director
National Association of Development Organizations



John Smaby, President
National Association of REALTORS®



Jim Goldwater, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
National Association of Tower Erectors



William T Winn, General Manager
National EMS Pilots Association



Leila Taha, President
National Flood Association



Lauren Schapker, Government Affairs Director
National Ground Water Association



Cindy Chetti, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs
National Multifamily Housing Council



Curtis W. Sumner, LS (VA), Executive Director
National Society of Professional Surveyors



Molly Schar, Executive Director
National States Geographic Information Council



Jessie Ritter, Director, Water Resources and Coastal Policy
National Wildlife Federation



Jack Alexander, President
Rural & Agriculture Council of America



Clayton Marlow, President
Society for Range Management



Clare Lindahl, CEO
Soil and Water Conservation Society



Ellen Bergfeld, PhD, CEO
Soil Science Society of America



cc: Chairman Richard Shelby and Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy, Fellow Committee Members

10340 Democracy Lane, Suite 300
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
P (703) 787-6665; F (703) 787-7550