

3DEP COALITION

June 25, 2021

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Chairman

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member

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

Dear Chairman Merkley and Ranking Member Murkowski:

We, the undersigned organizations, enthusiastically support the U.S. Geological Survey's 3D Elevation Program ([3DEP](#)). As you develop FY 2022 appropriations, we ask for your support for the USGS recommendation to provide [\\$146 million](#) to 3DEP on behalf of the [3DEP Coalition](#).

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,

Air Medical Operators Association
ALERT Users Group
Alliance of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science Societies
American Bankers Association
American Council of Engineering Companies
American Geosciences Institute
American Institute of Professional Geologists
American Petroleum Institute
American Property Casualty Insurance Association
American Public Works Association
American Society for Horticultural Science
American Society of Agronomy

American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers
American Water Resources Association
American Water Works Association
Association of American State Geologists
Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Association of State Dam Safety Officials
Association of State Floodplain Managers
Association of State Wetland Managers
Center for Data Innovation
Council of State Community Development Agencies
Crop Science Society of America
Geospatial Equipment & Technology Institute
Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety
U.S. Council, International Association of Emergency Managers
International Code Council
Interstate Council on Water Policy
Irrigation Association
Land Improvement Contractors of America
NATE: The Communications Infrastructure Contractors Association
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Apartment Association
National Association of Counties
National Association of Development Organizations
National Association of REALTORS®
National EMS Pilots Association
National Flood Association
National Ground Water Association
National Hydrologic Warning Council
National Hydropower Association
National Multifamily Housing Council
National Society of Professional Surveyors
National States Geographic Information Council
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
National Water Resources Association
National Wildlife Federation
Rural & Agriculture Council of America
Society for Range Management
Society of Economic Geologists
Soil and Water Conservation Society
Soil Science Society of America
The Nature Conservancy
U.S. Geospatial Executives Organization

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

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