

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 22, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall,

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2020 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we ask that you provide robust funding for the 3D Elevation Program, or 3DEP, administered by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

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; water resources; aviation safety; telecommunications; homeland security; emergency response; precision agriculture; energy; pipeline safety; and other areas. 3DEP will promote economic growth, facilitate resource development and management while enhancing environmental protection, assist with infrastructure improvement, and generally enhance the quality of life of all Americans. In addition, lidar data from 3DEP helps provide the USGS Natural Hazards Program with the best available scientific information and tools to reduce the threat of injuries, fatalities, and economic loss from a variety of disasters caused by natural hazards such as landslides, sinkholes, earthquakes and volcanoes.

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 USGS has previously recommended that \$146 million 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.

We urge you to provide robust funding for the 3D Elevation Program. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,



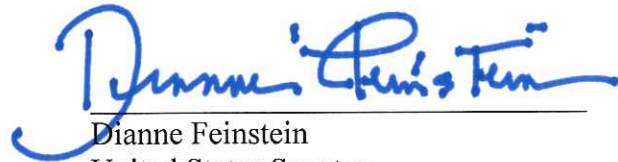
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United States Senator



Cory Gardner  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



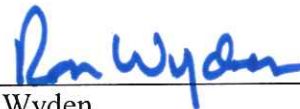
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



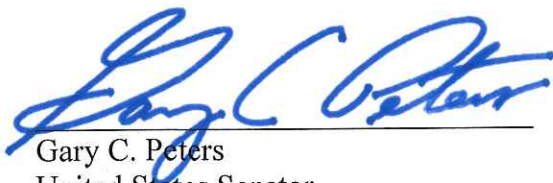
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



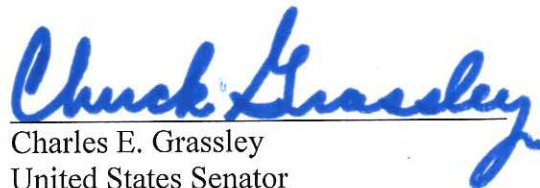
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United States Senator




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