

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 28, 2019

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment  
and Related Agencies  
B-308 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment  
and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwomen Lowey and McCollum and Ranking Members Granger and Joyce,

We write to respectfully request that you provide robust funding for the 3D Elevation Program, or 3DEP, administered by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in the FY 2020 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

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 natural disasters 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 are committed to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do everything we can to maximize the benefits for my constituents and for citizens across the country from the more

than 600 public applications and business uses of enhanced elevation data. Thank you for your attention to this request.

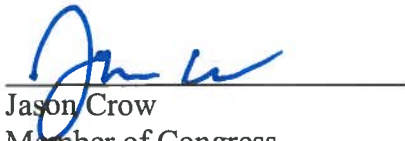
Sincerely,



Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress



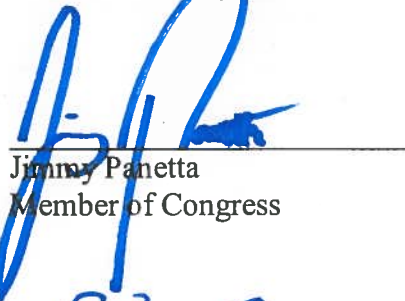
Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



Deb Haaland  
Member of Congress



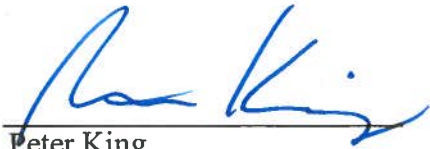
Kim Schriener  
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



Cindy Axne  
Member of Congress



Peter King  
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



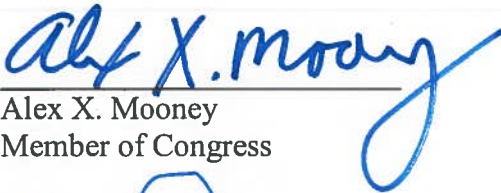
Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



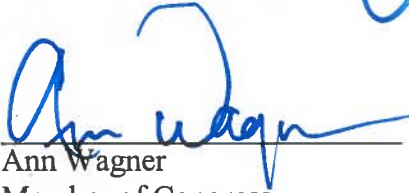
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



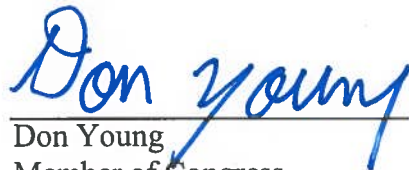
Alex X. Mooney  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



Don Young  
Member of Congress



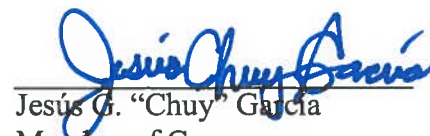
John Curtis  
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress




Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



Mike Johnson  
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



Paul Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford  
Member of Congress