Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
2162 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
2065 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

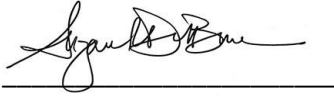Dear Chairwomen DeLauro and Pingree and Ranking Members Granger and Joyce,

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), and codified by Public Law 116-223, in the FY 2022 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 disasters caused by the natural hazards such as landslides, sinkholes, earthquakes, and volcanoes.
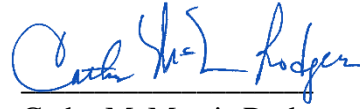
The USGS, with involvement from the private sector and other stakeholders, conducted a National Enhanced Elevation Assessment (NEEA), to determine and document the need for national elevation data within government and private markets. The results indicated that enhanced elevation data could have the potential to generate $13 billion in annual benefits, at a benefits-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,

_____
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Don Young
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Bill Foster
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Sean Casten
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
John R. Curtis
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Jason Crow
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Jenniffer González-Colón
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Burgess Owens
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Conor Lamb
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Jim Costa
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Ann Wagner
Member of Congress