

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2022

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 (3DEP) and the National Landslide Hazards Reduction Program administered by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and codified by the National Landslide Preparedness Act (P.L. 116-323), in the FY 2023 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; hydropower 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. Currently, the USGS has achieved coverage of 84% and is on pace to achieve 100% coverage by the end of FY23. We urge the committee to provide the USGS with the funding needed to achieve nationwide coverage.

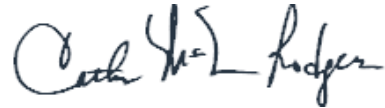
We need to do more to fund programs and research efforts to prevent future natural disasters from becoming national tragedies. On January 5, 2021, the National Landslide Preparedness Act (P.L. 116-323) was signed into law making landslides a national priority, authorizing 3DEP and the National Landslide Hazards Reduction Program to better identify and understand landslide risks, coordinate with local and state agencies, and help improve emergency preparedness.

We are committed to working with our 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



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Jenniffer González-Colón
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



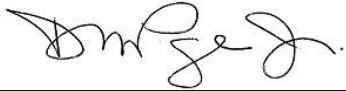
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



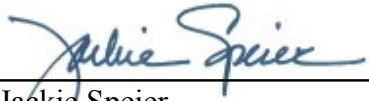
Conor Lamb
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



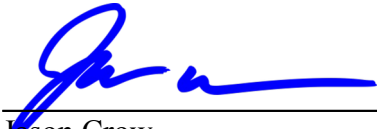
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



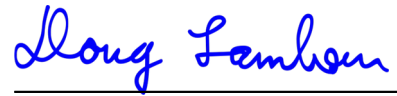
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



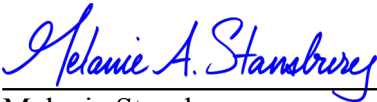
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



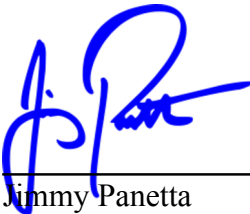
Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



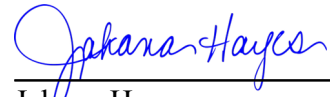
Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens
Member of Congress



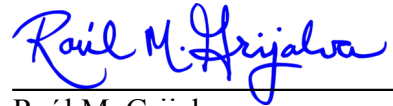
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



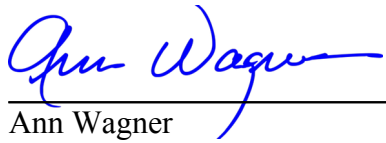
Fred Keller
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress