Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
Environment, and Related Agencies
2162 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior,
and Related Agencies
2065 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Granger and Simpson and Ranking Members DeLauro and Pingree,

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 2024 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 90% and is on pace to achieve 100% coverage by the end of FY26. 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

Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Jenniffer González-Colón
Member of Congress

Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress

Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

John R. Curtis
Member of Congress

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Blake D. Moore
Member of Congress

María Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress

Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

Val Hoyle
Member of Congress

Pete Stauber
Member of Congress

Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress

Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress

Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

Debbie Lesko
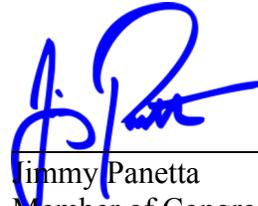Member of Congress

Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
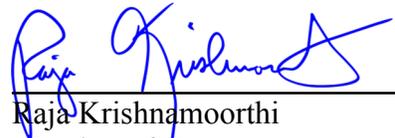Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

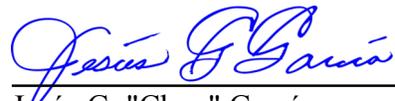Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

Max L. Miller
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress