

**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.

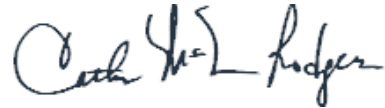
We are committed to working with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do everything we can to maximize the benefits for my constituents and for citizens across the country from the more than 600 public applications and business uses of enhanced elevation data. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



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Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



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Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



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Jenniffer González-Colón  
Member of Congress



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Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



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Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



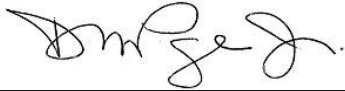
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Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



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Conor Lamb  
Member of Congress



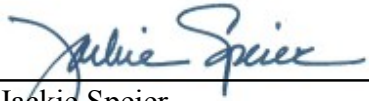
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress



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Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



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Andrew R. Garbarino  
Member of Congress



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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



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Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



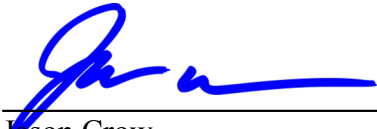
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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



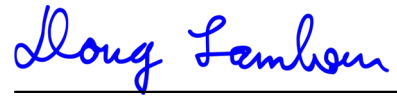
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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



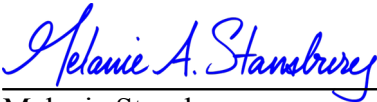
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Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



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Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



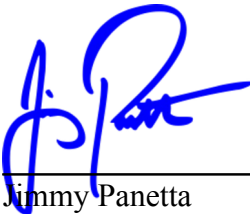
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Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress



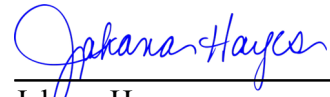
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Alex X. Mooney  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



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Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



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Burgess Owens  
Member of Congress



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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



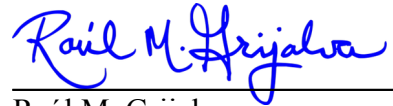
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Fred Keller  
Member of Congress



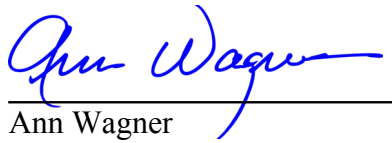
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Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress



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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



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Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress