



March 31, 2011

The Honorable Randy Neugebauer
U.S. Representative
1424 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Attention: Cliff Roberti, Legislative Director

Dear Representative Neugebauer:

MAPPS, the association of private mapping and geospatial firms, strongly supports your amendment #14 to H.R. 658, the "FAA Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2011."

Every day, MAPPS member firms conduct satellite, aerial and ground survey missions to collect data to support hundreds of critical programs and applications from emergency response to E-911 systems, from highway projects to private development, from energy production and distribution to environmental management and land use planning, as well as for aeronautical charts and obstruction surveys. Firms engaged in aerial surveying, photogrammetry, satellite and airborne remote sensing, aerial photography, and aerial and satellite image processing serve government clients at the Federal, state and local levels, as well as the commercial sector. Many of these mapping and geospatial firms operate general aviation aircraft to carry their airborne sensors. Many of these skilled professionals already provide data collected on obstruction surveys for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Your amendment would direct the FAA Administrator to conduct a feasibility study on the development of an online public resource that would list the location and height of potential low-altitude aviation obstructions, such as guy-wire and free-standing towers. The amendment would also give the Administrator one year to conduct the study and report to Congress. Please know there is a capable and qualified private sector that is available to support FAA in this program with its surveying, mapping and geospatial requirements and we strongly support your amendment.

We commend you for your leadership and urge the House to support your timely and important proposal.

Sincerely,

John M. Palatiello
MAPPS Executive Director