



June 20, 2014

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert:

MAPPS (www.mapps.org), the national trade association for private sector geospatial firms, enthusiastically supports the USGS 3DEP, or 3-D elevation program. I respectfully urge your subcommittee to fully fund this important program as requested in the President's budget, or, if possible, increase the appropriations level to meet the extraordinary demand for current, accurate elevation data for the nation.

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. Among the applications that will benefit from 3DEP data are flood risk management, agriculture, water supply, homeland security, renewable energy, aviation safety, and other areas. Indeed, USGS has identified more than 600 applications that would benefit from such enhanced elevation data. 3DEP will promote economic growth, facilitate responsible environmental protection and resource development and management, assist with infrastructure improvement, and generally enhance the quality of life of all Americans.

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 have the potential to generate \$13 billion in annual benefits, at a benefit:cost ratio of 4.7 to 1.

The equipment infrastructure and service capacity and capability of the private sector, as well as the contract vehicles in USGS, are in place to efficiently implement the 3DEP program. Moreover, Congress provided an innovative mechanism for cooperative activities in elevation data when it enacted the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act, in the MAP-21 Act, Public Law 112-141, in July of 2012. It included section 100220, which can be utilized to pool funding from Federal, state and local government entities for elevation data. USGS was

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specifically named in that provision. Section 100121 required a National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) study on how FEMA can improve interagency and intergovernmental coordination on flood mapping, including a funding strategy to leverage and coordinate budgets and expenditures and establish joint funding mechanisms with other Federal agencies and units of State and local government to share the collection and utilization of data among all governmental users. NAPA recently published "FEMA Flood Mapping: Enhancing Coordination to Maximize Performance" in which it proposed (page 11): "Recommendation 15: The Office of Management and Budget should use the 3DEP implementation plan for nationwide elevation data collection to guide the development of the President's annual budget request." In light of the controversy over FEMA flood insurance rates, particularly as that influenced the recent enactment of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 Public Law, 113-89, on March 21, 2014, there is an even more urgent and compelling need for the high-quality elevation data that 3DEP provides.

Given the attention the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has given to agency duplication in geospatial activities (including "OMB and Agencies Can Reduce Duplication by Making Coordination a Priority", GAO-14-226T, December 5, 2013), we believe 3DEP stands out as a best practices model for coordination, inter-agency and inter-governmental cooperation, and a strong definition of government and private sector roles and responsibilities in a public-private partnership.

In conclusion, my request and recommendations to your Subcommittee are:

Congress should appropriate funds for the 3DEP program at its optimal annual level of \$146 million among all participating agencies, including, at a minimum, the \$5 million for 3DEP, \$236,000 for Alaska Mapping, \$1.9 million for The National Map Modernization, and \$60,428,000 for the National Geospatial Program in the President's request for USGS.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views and I look forward to working with the subcommittee to continue the work to build on past success and further improve the Interior Department's surveying, mapping and geospatial activities.

Respectfully,



John M. Palatiello
Executive Director



June 20, 2014

The Honorable Jim Moran
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Moran:

MAPPS (www.mapps.org), the national trade association for private sector geospatial firms, enthusiastically supports the USGS 3DEP, or 3-D elevation program. I respectfully urge your subcommittee to fully fund this important program as requested in the President's budget, or, if possible, increase the appropriations level to meet the extraordinary demand for current, accurate elevation data for the nation.

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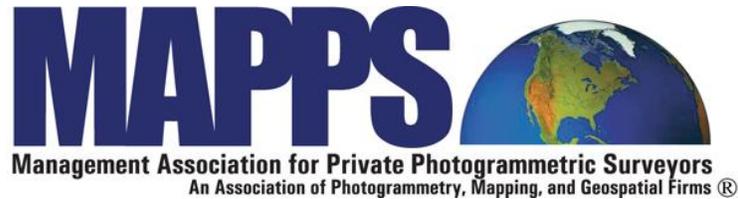
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Executive Director



June 20, 2014

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Reed:

MAPPS (www.mapps.org), the national trade association for private sector geospatial firms, enthusiastically supports the USGS 3DEP, or 3-D elevation program. I respectfully urge your subcommittee to fully fund this important program as requested in the President's budget, or, if possible, increase the appropriations level to meet the extraordinary demand for current, accurate elevation data for the nation.

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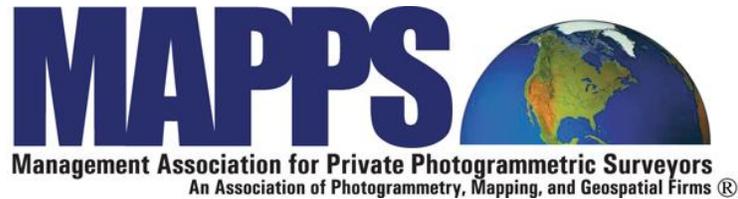
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The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
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Dear Senator Murkowski:

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