

Private Sector Utilization

A positive public-private partnership model is needed so that there are clearly defined roles and responsibilities to provide synergy between the public and private sectors in the Federal level, and particularly with regard to surveying, mapping and geospatial activities. Geospatial technology, identified by the U.S. Department of Labor as one of the top three emerging technologies for the 21st century, is estimated to be a \$100 billion worldwide market growing at an annual rate of 10-15%. Government agencies should be utilizing private sector geospatial firms to the maximum extent practical, not duplicating or directly competing against them.

The federal government has more than 1.12 million employees who are involved in performing commercially available activities, such as surveying, mapping and geospatial services. These are activities that can be found in the “Yellow Pages” from private companies, including small business, on Main Street USA. Numerous government studies have identified surveying, mapping and other “geospatial” activities as prime examples of commercial activities in which the federal government competes with and duplicates the private sector.



There is a need and role for government in surveying, mapping and geospatial activities. Agency personnel should be focused on the core mission of their respective agency, and should not utilize government resources to unreasonably compete with the private sector in providing surveying and mapping services which may include data acquisition, processing, applications, and value added services.

In the 115th Congress, Representative John J. “Jimmy” Duncan, Jr. (R-TN) and Senator John Thune (R-SD) have introduced the “Freedom from Government Competition Act” (H.R. 1339/S. 506). In March of 2018, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform began consideration of H.R. 1339. This legislation will codify the “Yellow Pages” test, applied by Mayors and Governors, both Democrat and Republican, that says if you can find private sector firms in the Yellow Pages providing products or services that the government is also providing, then the service should be subject to market competition to break up the government monopoly and prove a better value to the taxpayer. This bill will not only make government smaller and more efficient, but can save more than \$27 billion annually and improve the quality of services.

ACTION REQUESTED:

NSPS respectfully urges members of Congress to act to increase Federal agency utilization of the private sector for commercial activities, including surveying, mapping and geospatial services. Representatives are asked to cosponsor H.R. 1339 by contacting Cody Rhodes in Representative Duncan’s office at 5-5435. Senators are urged to cosponsor S. 506 by contacting Jon Abdnor in Senator Thune’s office at 4-2321. For more information, contact John Byrd, NSPS Government Affairs Representative, at jbyrd@jmpa.us or (703) 787-6665.