

[3DEP COALITION](#)

March 22, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member

Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

We, the undersigned organizations, enthusiastically support the U.S. Geological Survey's 3D Elevation Program ([3DEP](#)). As you develop FY 2019 appropriations, we ask for your support for the USGS recommendation to provide \$146 million to 3DEP.

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](#), [agriculture](#), water supply, homeland security, renewable energy, aviation safety, telecommunications, and [infrastructure](#), to name just a few. 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-to-cost ratio of 4.7 to 1. The \$146 million we are requesting will enable USGS to achieve nationwide coverage of the United States on an 8-year cycle, as originally conceived in the USGS plan for 3DEP.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views and we look forward to working with the subcommittee to build on past success and further improve the U.S. Department of the Interior's surveying, mapping and geospatial activities.

Respectfully,

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Executive Director
American Geosciences Institute



Brian Pallasch
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cc: Chairman Thad Cochran and Ranking Member Patrick Leahy, Fellow Committee Members

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