

[3DEP COALITION](#)

June 20, 2018

Dr. James F. Reilly II, Director
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192

Dear Dr. Reilly:

We, the undersigned organizations, enthusiastically support the U.S. Geological Survey's 3D Elevation Program ([3DEP](#)). As you begin your stewardship over the Survey's wide variety of programs, we ask that you prioritize 3DEP and work with the diverse community of stakeholders which partner with the USGS leadership on this nationwide program that continues to gain traction, not only in Congress, but within the Department of the Interior at large, as well as other Federal, state and local government agencies and the private sector.

3DEP will satisfy the growing demand for consistent, high-quality elevation 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. These 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 and communication improvements, 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 USGS has previously recommended that [\\$146 million](#) 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 you to build on past success and further improve the U.S. Department of the Interior's surveying, mapping and geospatial activities.

Respectfully,

Ellen Bergfeld, PhD
CEO

Alliance of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science Societies



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