

June 4, 2025

The Honorable Suzan DelBene
U.S. House of Representatives
2311 Rayburn House Office
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DelBene,

On behalf of the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), the national organization representing state GIS leaders and geospatial professionals, we write to express our strong support for the reauthorization of the National Landslide Preparedness Act and thank you for introducing the companion bill to S.1626 in the House. We also commend Senator Lisa Murkowski and Senator Maria Cantwell for their bipartisan leadership on this critical issue.

Landslides pose a growing threat to public safety, infrastructure, and economic vitality across the United States. Through the National Landslide Hazards Reduction Program and the U.S. Geological Survey's 3D Elevation Program (3DEP), we have made great progress in identifying and mitigating these risks. However, reauthorization is urgently needed to continue and expand this essential work.

A key aspect of that progress—and one NSGIC urges further investment in—is the rasterization of landslide-related elevation data. Raster data products derived from lidar and other high-resolution sensors are foundational to landslide modeling, slope stability analysis, change detection, and emergency response planning. These raster layers serve as the analytical bedrock that state and local governments rely on to make fast, accurate, and life-saving decisions.

NSGIC believes that the role of states in aggregating, enhancing, and coordinating geospatial data must be fully supported. The rasterization process is a prime example of where federal programs can amplify local datasets into nationally consistent information products. By fully funding and reauthorizing the National Landslide Hazards Reduction Program and 3DEP, Congress will ensure that these raster products are timely, actionable, and accessible to all levels of government and the public.

We stand ready to support this legislation and collaborate with your office, federal agencies, and industry partners, who are also dedicated to advancing geospatial readiness and national hazard mitigation efforts.

Thank you for your leadership on this vital issue.

Sincerely,



Kenneth A. Nelson
President, National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)
Kansas State Geospatial Information Officer