

May 20, 2026

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
Related Agencies
2084 Rayburn House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
and Related Agencies
2354 Rayburn House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Critical Geospatial Infrastructure Funding Requests for FY 2027 Interior Appropriations Markup

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree,

On behalf of the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) and in preparation for tomorrow's subcommittee markup, we respectfully request your support for critical geospatial infrastructure funding within the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

All levels of government rely on these baseline datasets every day to manage flood risks, design infrastructure, respond to wildfires, and protect local economies. As the Subcommittee finalizes the FY 2027 appropriations bill, we urgently request the following actions to protect these vital capabilities:

- **Reject the Proposed Reductions to the 3D National Topography Model (3DNTM):** We strongly urge the Subcommittee to maintain funding at the previously enacted level of **\$44.8 million** for USGS 3DNTM. The FY 2027 Budget Justifications (Greenbook) proposes a devastating \$32,670,000 and 27 FTE reduction. A cut of this magnitude will harm data acquisition momentum and wipe out an estimated \$163 million in annual public and private benefits.
- **Maintain Expert Human Quality Assurance:** The FY 2027 Greenbook proposes relying *solely* on automated quality assurance. Automated tools cannot completely replace expert human review for nationally trusted data. Eliminating human QA will severely degrade data reliability and shift millions of dollars in duplicative quality-checking costs down onto hundreds of state, local, and tribal end-users.
- **Provide Programmatic Flexibility:** We request that Congress include bill or report language giving USGS the operational flexibility to manage 3DEP and 3DHP funding as a unified 3DNTM investment. These programs are technically interdependent; rigid, separate funding lines create severe administrative inefficiencies when operational priorities shift from year to year.

The partnership models underpinning these programs serve as the gold standard for federal-state collaboration, ensuring we eliminate duplicative spending and maximize the return on every taxpayer dollar. Enclosed is an updated fact sheet detailing the specific economic justifications and legislative language requests for your review.

Thank you for your continued leadership, your partnership with the states, and your dedication to strengthening the Nation's foundational geospatial infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Mark Yacucci

Mark Yacucci
President
National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)

Cc: John S. Jordan, CAE
Executive Director
National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)