October 22, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
363 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chair, House Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
202 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
United States Senate
316 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Wittman
United States House of Representatives
2055 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Earth MRI Reauthorization Act of 2026, S.4870 and H.R.9640

Dear Chairman Lee, Chairman Westerman, Senator Murkowski, Senator Hickenlooper, and Representative Wittman:

On behalf of the National Society of State Surveyors and National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), I express our strong support for H.R. 9640 and S. 4870. These companion bills represent a vital step forward in modernizing our nation's foundational geospatial framework.

NSGIC speaks with the voice of the States on matters of mapping and geospatial data. As state geographic information officers and authority figures, our members coordinate the data and technology infrastructure that powers critical government operations and economic engines across the country. We understand firsthand that precise geographic data is a baseline necessity for both public safety and private enterprise.

A primary reason for our enthusiastic support is the formal authorization and advancement of the 3D Hydrography Program (3DHP). The 3D Hydrography Program is critical to states for flood hazard preparation and response, agriculture, energy, and myriad other uses which underpin our economy. By providing highly accurate, three-dimensional representations of our nation's surface water features and

hydrological networks, this program allows states to model flood vulnerabilities, protect critical infrastructure, and manage precious natural resources with unprecedented accuracy.

The economic implications of modern geospatial and geochemical data cannot be overstated. For example, Tennessee recently announced a $6.6 billion investment by Korea Zinc to establish its first U.S. operations in both Gordonsville and Clarksville, Tennessee. This massive development project is projected to create 740 high-paying jobs and secure a critical supply chain. This kind of development is not practical without high quality geochemical data and foundational geospatial mapping to guide exploration, environmental planning, and infrastructure development.

When states have access to comprehensive, standardized data, it directly unlocks billions of dollars in private investments and generates thousands of jobs. H.R. 9640 and S. 4870 will ensure that all states can leverage these modern tools to drive economic growth while safeguarding our communities against natural disasters.

We further encourage Congress to establish a preference for qualified U.S.-based companies in federally funded mapping and geospatial data acquisition programs. Prioritizing domestic capabilities will strengthen America's geospatial industrial base, create and sustain high-skilled American jobs, retain federal investment within the U.S. economy, and generate additional economic benefits for states through local employment, business growth, and expanded technical expertise.

We applaud your leadership on these critical, bipartisan pieces of legislation. NSGIC stands ready to work alongside you and your staff to ensure the successful passage and implementation of H.R. 9640 and S. 4870.

Sincerely,

Mark Yacucci

Mark Yacucci
President