

USGS COALITION

July 8, 2016

Chairman Thad Cochran
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Barbara Mikulski
S-146A, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Lisa Murkowski
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Tom Udall
190 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cochran, Mikulski, Murkowski, and Udall,

On behalf of the USGS Coalition, thank you for your efforts to boost funding for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in fiscal year 2017.

The \$6.1 million increase included in S. 3068 would restore the agency to the FY 2012 enacted level. We appreciate the committee's efforts to restore some of the funding lost since FY 2010, when USGS funding peaked at \$1.1 billion.

As you well know, the USGS is uniquely positioned to provide information and inform responses to many of the nation's greatest challenges, from natural resources management to energy independence to mitigating damages from natural hazards.

We recognize the financial constraints that the committee has had to work within. However, we are concerned about the significant cuts proposed for climate variability (-13 percent), land change science (-14 percent), and environmental health (-14 percent). Although a smaller reduction is proposed for Ecosystems, this division has sustained a 22 percent reduction in funding since FY 2010. Although we applaud the proposed increases in the Water Resources mission area, if S. 3068 is adopted, the National Water Quality Program would lose 9 percent of its budget since FY 2014. We urge you to restore all of these cuts when the bill is considered on the Senate floor.

Again, thank you for your efforts on behalf of the USGS. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on these issues.

Regards,



Elizabeth A. Duffy
Co-chair



Julie Palakovich Carr
Co-chair