

USGS COALITION

December 16, 2016

Dear President-elect Trump,

Congratulations on your election as 45th President of the United States.

We write on behalf of the USGS Coalition, an alliance of over 75 organizations united by a commitment to the continued ability of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to provide critical data and services.

The USGS plays a unique role within the Department of the Interior, conducting research across a broad array of scientific disciplines and providing data that informs responses to many of the nation's greatest challenges. To highlight just a few examples, USGS scientists:

- Reduce risks from **natural hazards** – including earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, flooding, drought, and wildfires – that jeopardize human lives and result in billions of dollars in damages annually.
- Inform management of **freshwater resources** – both above and below the land surface – for drinking water, agriculture, and commercial, industrial, recreational, and ecological purposes.
- Inform sound management of **natural resources** on federal and state lands, including control of invasive species and wildlife diseases that cause billions of dollars in economic losses. This information is shared with other Interior bureaus and state agencies to allow for adequate monitoring and management.
- Help predict the impacts of **land use** and climatic conditions on the availability of water resources and the frequency of **wildfires**. The Landsat satellites have collected the largest archive of remotely sensed land data in the world, which informs **agriculture production** and our nation's response to and mitigation of natural hazards.
- Provide vital **geospatial and mapping data** used in economic development, environmental management, infrastructure projects, and scientific applications by states, federal agencies, and the private sector.
- Help make decisions about the nation's energy future by assessing **mineral and energy resources** – including rare earth elements, coal, oil, unconventional natural gas, and geothermal. The USGS is the sole federal source of information on mineral potential, production, and consumption.

The Coalition recommends that the Director of the USGS serve as the science advisor to the new Secretary of the Interior. The USGS is the main source of scientific information within the Department of the Interior and provides scientific expertise to the nation. The Director of the

USGS can provide the Secretary scientific direction and the best available information to inform the decision-making process. For example, the Director of the USGS was integral in the federal government's response to the Deepwater Horizon incident and headed the technical team that measured the amount of oil spilled in the Gulf of Mexico.

Lastly, we encourage you to include robust funding for science in the budget request for fiscal year 2018 and beyond, especially for the USGS. Few modern problems can be addressed by a single scientific discipline. The USGS has a unique capacity to deploy truly interdisciplinary teams of experts to gather data, conduct research, and develop integrated decision support tools that improve ecosystem management, ensure accurate assessments of our water quality and quantity, reduce risks from natural and human-induced hazards, deliver timely assessments of mineral and energy resources, and provide emergency responders with accurate geospatial data and maps.

The USGS Coalition stands ready to work with you, your transition team, and your administration on issues related to the USGS. Please contact us at eduffy@federalaffairs.com or jpalakovichcarr@aibs.org if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Duffy
Co-Chair



Julie Palakovich Carr
Co-Chair

Members of the USGS Coalition

American Association of Petroleum Geologists
American Fisheries Society
American Geosciences Institute
American Geophysical Union
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Institute of Professional Geologists
American Rivers
American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society of Plant Taxonomists
American Water Resources Association
Applied Technology Council
Association of American Geographers
Association of American State Geologists
Association of Ecosystem Research Centers
Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities
Association of State Floodplain Managers
Boise State University
Botanical Society of America
Bureau of Economic Geology at The University of Texas at Austin
California Institute of Technology
California Seismic Safety Commission
Cartography and Geographic Information Society
Clean Beaches Coalition
Council of Entomology Department Administrators
Council of Science Editors
Crop Science Society of America
Earthquake Engineering Research Institute
Ecological Society of America
ESRI
Geo-Institute of ASCE
Geological Society of America
Geoscience Information Society
The Groundwater Foundation
Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology
International Association of Emergency Managers
Interstate Council on Water Policy
Kansas Geological Survey
MAPPS
National Association of Clean Water Agencies

National Association of University Fisheries and Wildlife Programs
National Cooperators' Coalition for the USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units
National Council for Science and the Environment
National Flood Determination Association
National Geographic Society
National Ground Water Association
National Institutes for Water Resources
National Mining Association
National Society of Professional Surveyors
Natural Science Collections Alliance
NatureServe
NBII Coalition
OhioView
Ornithological Council
Phycological Society of America
Renewable Natural Resources Foundation
Seismological Society of America
Society for Freshwater Science
Society for Range Management
Society of Economic Geologists
Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry -- North America
Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration
Soil Science Society of America
Southern California Earthquake Center at the University of Southern California
UNAVCO
Universities Council on Water Resources
University Consortium for Geographic Information Science
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
University of Colorado
University of Southern California
Water Environment Federation
Weed Science Society of America
Western States Seismic Policy Council
The Wildlife Society