

# USGS Coalition

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American Congress on Surveying  
and Mapping  
American Fisheries Society  
American Geological Institute  
American Geophysical Union  
American Institute of Biological  
Sciences  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society for Photogram-  
metry & Remote Sensing  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society of Civil  
Engineers  
American Water Resources  
Association  
Association of Ecosystem Research  
Centers  
Association of Metropolitan Water  
Agencies  
Association of State Floodplain  
Managers  
Crop Science Society of America  
Council of Science Editors  
Earthquake Engineering Research  
Institute  
Ecological Society of America  
Geo-Institute of ASCE  
Geological Society of America  
The Groundwater Foundation  
Interstate Council on Water Policy  
Kansas Geological Survey  
National Association of State  
Universities and Land-Grant  
Colleges  
National Association of University  
Fisheries and Wildlife Programs  
National Council for Science and  
the Environment  
National Flood Determination  
Association  
National Ground Water  
Association  
National Institutes for Water  
Resources  
Natural Science Collections  
Alliance  
NatureServe  
Seismological Society of America  
Society of Economic Geologists  
Soil Science Society of America  
The Wildlife Society

September 30, 2003

The Honorable Charles Taylor, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior & Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We thank you for your strong support of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in H.R. 2691, restoring proposed funding cuts and providing additional resources over the previous year. We urge you to at least maintain the \$935.7 million level in the upcoming conference with the Senate, providing adequate support for base programs as well as congressionally directed projects. We further encourage you to consider an additional increase that will help USGS meet the tremendous need for science in support of public policy decision-making.

We appreciate the report language emphasizing the importance of USGS programs and recognizing the need to support cooperative initiatives. More investment is needed to strengthen USGS partnerships, improve monitoring networks, produce high-quality digital geospatial data and deliver the best possible science to address societally important problems.

The USGS Coalition is an alliance of organizations united by a commitment to the continued vitality of the unique combination of biological, geological, hydrological and mapping programs of the U.S. Geological Survey. The USGS provides independent, high-quality data, information, research support and assessments needed by federal, state, local and tribal policymakers, resource and emergency managers, engineers and planners, researchers and educators and the public. The Coalition supports increased federal investment in USGS programs that underpin responsible natural resource stewardship, improve resilience to natural and human-induced hazards, and contribute to the long-term health, security and prosperity of the nation.

We look forward to working with you in the future to further strengthen this important agency. If you have any questions or we can provide additional information, please contact David Applegate ([applegate@agiweb.org](mailto:applegate@agiweb.org); 703 379 2480 ext. 228; fax 703 379 7563). Additional information about the coalition can be found at [www.usgscoalition.org](http://www.usgscoalition.org).