

USGS Coalition

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 Conrad Burns, Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We thank you for the support you have provided to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in S. 1391, restoring proposed funding cuts. In order to meet the tremendous need for science in support of public policy decision-making, 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. Consequently, we urge you at a minimum to support the House-requested level of \$935.7 million in your upcoming conference, providing adequate support for base programs as well as congressionally directed projects.

We also encourage you to include language in the conference report similar to the language that accompanied last year's Senate bill: "The Committee is dismayed that the budget estimate for the USGS once again recommends large reductions to valuable ongoing programs... The Committee does not agree to the termination or weakening of programs for which there is strong support from a broad constituency, and a demonstrated value through the significant amount of non-Federal funds that are leveraged through most USGS programs."

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; 703 379 2480 ext. 228; fax 703 379 7563). Additional information about the coalition can be found at www.usgscoalition.org.