

# USGS COALITION

December 16, 2016

Dear President-elect Trump,

Congratulations on your election as 45<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:eduffy@federalaffairs.com) or [jpalakovichcarr@aibs.org](mailto: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