

USGS COALITION

October 30, 2014

Dear Acting Director Kimball,

On behalf of the USGS Coalition, I am writing to draw your attention to an issue of growing concern to the membership of the Coalition: the number of unfilled positions in the leadership team at the U.S. Geological Survey. The USGS Organization Chart shows that 10 of 24 key positions are currently vacant or filled on an acting basis. We appreciate the daunting task it must be to fill such a large number of positions, but we believe it in the best interest of the USGS that these positions are filled with qualified candidates as quickly as possible.

The USGS Coalition is an alliance of over 70 organizations united by a commitment to the continued vitality of the United States Geological Survey and its ability to provide critical data and services to the nation. 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.

Nine positions are internal USGS appointments that do not require external approval. As you know, these positions include the Deputy Director; Associate Director – Office of Budget, Planning, and Integration; Associate Director – Energy, Minerals, and Environmental Health; Associate Director – Land Use and Climate Change; Associate Director – Administration; Associate Director – Human Capital; and the Regional Directors for Alaska, Northwest, and Southwest regions. We appreciate the work of all those who are serving or who have served in an acting capacity, but acting officials do not have the authority or capacity to develop and lead mission areas, regions, or other offices for extended periods of time.

The USGS Coalition appreciates your strong leadership of the U.S. Geological Survey. We respectfully request that you do all you can to prioritize the process of filling these important leadership positions within the USGS.

The USGS Coalition would be happy to provide more information or to assist in any way. Please contact me at rgropp@aibs.org or (202) 628-1500 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Robert Gropp
Chair, USGS Coalition