

USGS COALITION

November 21, 2014

Ms. Melanie Stansbury
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Ms. Stansbury,

The USGS Coalition supports a request of at least \$1.2 billion for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for fiscal year (FY) 2016. Based on our analysis of the USGS programs and their authorized activities, this level of support is needed to sustain USGS services to the nation. We appreciate the Administration's ongoing support and recognition of the scientific contributions of the USGS and encourage a FY 2016 budget request that reflects this commitment.

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.

Few modern environmental or natural resource problems can be informed by a single scientific discipline. The USGS is thus unique as it has the breadth of expertise and capacity to deploy truly interdisciplinary teams of experts to gather data, conduct research, and develop integrated decision support tools that reduce risks from natural and human-induced hazards, provide emergency responders with accurate geospatial data and maps, ensure accurate assessments of our water quality and quantity, deliver timely assessments of mineral and energy resources, and improve ecosystem management.

An FY 2016 budget request of \$1.2 billion for the USGS would allow the agency to sustain current efforts and make strategic new investments that will produce the knowledge and decision-support tools needed by decision-makers across the country. We recognize the financial challenges facing the nation, but losing irreplaceable data will increase costs to society today and in the future. Data not collected about Earth processes today are data lost forever. This is particularly significant for systems monitoring the environment, natural hazards, and ecosystems; the loss of a year's data can limit the scope and reliability of long-term dataset analysis.

The USGS Coalition would be happy to meet with you at your convenience to further discuss the important work of the USGS. Please contact me at rgropp@aibs.org or (202) 628-1500 x 250 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert Gropp, Ph.D.
Chair, USGS Coalition