

# USGS COALITION

Dr. Suzette Kimball  
Director, U.S. Geological Survey  
Directors Office  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Mail Stop 100  
Reston, VA 20192

September 9, 2016

Dear Dr. Kimball:

The USGS Coalition would like to draw your attention to the vital importance of the USGS Library to the overall objectives of the USGS and to the economic prosperity and environmental health of the country. We understand the difficult choices the Survey has had to make in recent years in light of declining appropriations and budget sequestration. We hope that as the Survey's budget continues to rebuild, the USGS Library's budget will also benefit.

The USGS Library holds the world's richest collection of domestic and global earth science publications and maps, housing more than 1.5 million volumes and more than 3 million maps, historical photographs, and field records. Over 35 percent of the collection is unique to the USGS or is available at fewer than ten libraries worldwide. This information is timeless and irreplaceable – geological observations do not go out of date even if interpretations change and many of these documents record work that would be impossible to replicate.

The Library serves as a primary information resource for USGS research scientists across all mission areas. It is also used extensively by federal, state, and local bodies, universities and research institutions, and by industry, consultants, and the public seeking information on topics of national and international importance, including energy and mineral exploration and environmental protection. The Library's online database is the second most-used application within the USGS.

In February 2016, the USGS Coalition met with Kevin Gallagher and other USGS representatives about the Library. We appreciated the opportunity to discuss the challenges facing the Library, including rising journal subscription costs and a 35 percent vacancy rate in staff positions. We recognize that these issues are weighed in the context of all of the challenges facing the Survey, but they also have repercussions on the geoscience community. For example, over the last 15 years the number of subscriptions available to researchers has dropped from

1200 to fewer than 800. In addition to loss of subscriptions, the loss of staff positions has led to reductions in the services that the Library can provide.

The USGS Coalition stands ready to assist you in highlighting the importance of the USGS Library and in promoting increased funding for the Library, which is a key national scientific asset.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Duffy  
Co-Chair

Julie Palakovich Carr  
Co-Chair