

USGS COALITION

October 18, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
U.S. Senate
Committee on Appropriations
S-128 US Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate
Committee on Appropriations
S-146A US Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators McConnell, Reid, Cochran, and Mikulski:

On behalf of the USGS Coalition, we urge you to finish FY 2017 appropriations this year and not pass a year-long continuing resolution. Such a stop-gap measure would stifle the ability of the U.S. Geological Survey and other federal agencies to initiate new projects and to adequately plan for the future. This would not only harm the agency's mission, but stakeholders across the country who depend upon USGS services and work products. A year-long continuing resolution would also negatively impact the ability of the USGS to engage in long-term monitoring related to natural hazards, water, and environmental health.

The USGS Coalition is an alliance of over 70 organizations united by a commitment to the continued vitality of the United States Geological Survey to provide critical data and services. 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 thank you for your prior support of the USGS and for your consideration of this request.

Regards,



Elizabeth A. Duffy
Co-Chair



Julie Palakovich Carr
Co-Chair