

March 27, 2015

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program (NGGDPP)  
Reauthorization**

Dear Chairman Bishop:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we ask for your support in the reauthorization of the National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program (NGGDPP).

Archived and heritage geological and geophysical data can yield energy and mineral discoveries worth billions of dollars and generate tens of thousands of jobs. The NGGDPP supports important Federal-State partnerships that achieve mutually beneficial goals related to the rescue and accessibility of invaluable geoscience data.

**Geoscience data are critical and of immediate concern to the Nation's economy, well-being, and security.** Examples include the following:

- Location, abundance, sustainability, and quality of water supplies
- Domestic energy sources, such as oil, gas, coal, geothermal, and renewables; reduction of carbon emissions
- Domestic sources of metals and critical minerals
- Identification, mapping, and prediction of geologic hazards such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, sinkholes and landslides
- New technological breakthroughs require re-examination of samples and data; data historically deemed insignificant may become paramount to new discoveries
- Training the next generation of geoscientists, especially geologic mappers

All of these issues rely on the analysis of geological and geophysical samples, collections, and data that already exist. **They have been acquired at the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars and in most instances are irreplaceable.** Regrettably, these vital materials are often in poor states of preservation and access, and in danger of permanent loss. Many of this nation's geological data repositories, most of which are maintained by State Geological Surveys, are now at or near their storage capacity. Some have exceeded their capacity and are relying on temporary, non-climate-controlled portable storage. Expansion of these facilities requires significant capital costs. While industry and government have made substantial investments to acquire geoscience data and collections for over 150 years, volumes of expensive and arduously

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obtained subsurface information are currently at risk of disposal or ruin. Once these data are lost, they probably will never be replaced.

Congress established the National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program (NGGDPP) through the Energy Policy Act of 2005 [PL 109-38] to address these issues. We acknowledge and support the role of the US Geological Survey (USGS) in administering this program, which includes the development and compilation of state and federal data inventories, data standards, creation of a National Digital Catalog, strategic planning, and collaboration regarding preservation techniques. This vital work can continue, however, it requires Congressional reauthorization.

We commend your efforts to strengthen our nation's capacity to address the challenges associated with energy, as well as critical and strategic mineral resources. The reauthorization of the NGGDPP will greatly assist in these endeavors.

Please contact Dr. Jonathan D. Arthur, President of the Association of American State Geologists at [Jonathan.Arthur@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Jonathan.Arthur@dep.state.fl.us) or 850.591.5174 if you have questions or would like additional information regarding the NGGDPP. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Association of American State Geologists (AASG)  
American Geosciences Institute  
Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Inc.  
National Ground Water Association  
American Association of Petroleum Geologists  
American Meteorological Society  
Geological Society of America  
American Geophysical Union  
Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists  
Soil Science Society of America  
Arizona Rock Products Association  
Arizona Geological Society  
Endless Mountain Energy Partners, LLC  
Pennsylvania Aggregates and Concrete Association  
Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Lehigh University  
Marcellus Shale Coalition

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Carmeuse Group  
Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers  
Industrial Minerals Resource Consultants, Inc.  
Exxon-Mobil  
Cabot Oil and Gas  
Chesapeake Energy Corporation  
Cimarex Energy Company  
Dolan Integration Group (DIG)  
Frazer and Company Exploration Services  
ECSI, LLC  
Magnum Hunter Production, Inc.  
Western Kentucky University Department of Geography and Geology  
Indiana University Shale Research Lab  
University of Kentucky, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences  
Geological Society of Kentucky  
Midas Gold Corporation  
Geological Society of Connecticut  
Southern Company Services  
Alabama Geological Society  
Alabama Museum of Natural History  
McWane Science Center  
F.M. Beck, Inc  
New York State Construction Materials Association  
Independent Oil & Gas Association of New York  
Geological Survey of Alabama  
Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys  
Arizona Geological Survey  
Arkansas Geological Survey  
California Geological Survey  
Colorado Geological Survey  
Connecticut Geological Survey  
Delaware Geological Survey  
Florida Geological Survey  
Idaho Geological Survey

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Illinois State Geological Survey  
Indiana Geological Survey  
Iowa Geological Survey  
Kansas Geological Survey  
Kentucky Geological Survey  
Louisiana Geological Survey  
Maine Geological Survey  
Maryland Geological Survey  
Massachusetts Geological Survey  
Michigan Geological Survey  
Minnesota Geological Survey  
Mississippi Office of Geology  
Missouri Geological Survey  
Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology  
Nebraska Geological Survey  
Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology  
New Hampshire Geological Survey  
New Jersey Geological and Water Survey  
New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources  
New York Geological Survey  
North Carolina Geological Survey  
North Dakota Geological Survey  
Ohio Geological Survey  
Oklahoma Geological Survey  
Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries  
Pennsylvania Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey  
Rhode Island Geological Survey  
South Carolina Geological Survey  
South Dakota Geological Survey Program  
Tennessee Geological Survey  
Texas Bureau of Economic Geology  
Utah Geological Survey  
Vermont Geological Survey  
Virginia Division of Geology and Mineral Resources

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Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources  
West Virginia Geological Survey  
Wisconsin Geological & Natural History Survey  
Wyoming State Geological Survey