

USGS COALITION

August 31, 2017

Chairman Thad Cochran
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Patrick Leahy
S-146A, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Lisa Murkowski
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Tom Udall
190 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cochran, Leahy, Murkowski, and Udall,

On behalf of the USGS Coalition, we are writing regarding funding for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in fiscal year 2018.

In July, the House Appropriations Committee passed a bill that would cut USGS funding by \$46.3 million. This cut would result in less funding than the agency received in FY 2009. Nearly all USGS mission areas would be impacted, including critical work on natural hazards, ecosystem management, water resources, and climate and land use change.

As you well know, the USGS is uniquely positioned to provide critical scientific information and inform responses to many of the nation's greatest challenges, from natural resources management to energy independence to mitigating damages from natural hazards. The agency, however, cannot continue to support all of its central mission areas with proposed House budget as passed.

We recognize the financial constraints that the committee has had to work within, but hope that the Senate mark will include the necessary additional funds for USGS in FY 2018.

Thank you for your prior investments in the USGS. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on these issues.

Regards,



Elizabeth A. Duffy
Co-chair



Julie Palakovich Carr
Co-chair