

NSPS Government Affairs Update
Prepared by
Miller/Wenhold Government Affairs
NSPS Government Affairs Lobbyist
April 2026

This report, prepared for the April 2026 NSPS Board of Directors and Government Affairs Committee meetings, provides an update on issues and activities in the NSPS Government Affairs program, as authored by Miller/Wenhold Government Affairs, the NSPS government affairs consultant for the current 119th Congress, covering 2025-2026.

Major NSPS Highlights Since October 2025

- In advance of the 2026 NSPS Day on the Hill set for April 14, NSPS Leadership has selected the three issues: 1) DOD TAP pilot for the surveying profession as part of the 2027 Defense Bill; 2) Alpha-gal Allergen Inclusion Act (H.R. 1178); and 3) Geodesy prioritization in the 2026 Highway Bill. As of early April, over 100 NSPS members from 46 states have registered to attend the NSPS Day on the Hill and roughly 175 expected meetings with offices in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives are in the process of being secured.
- In January, NSPS secured in FY2026 funding for FEMA and DHS, the following report language which should be considered a major victory for NSPS:
“Preservation of Surveyors Marks.-Within 180 days of the date of enactment of this Act, FEMA shall provide a briefing to the Committees on the potential benefits of including surveying mark preservation performed by land surveyors as a core activity for disaster planning, emergency response, disaster cleanup, and disaster recovery efforts.”
- On January 15, a delegation from NSPS including Sean Ireland of Utah, NSPS President Linda Foster of South Dakota, NSPS Executive Director Tim Burch, and NSPS Federal Lobbyist John “JB” Byrd met with legislative staff for Representative Blake Moore (R-UT) to learn about the MAP Roads Act (H.R. 5479), request clarification on the type of data and uses, and determine how many NSPS be supportive.
- In early March, NSPS learned that NSPS Past President Dr. Davey Edwards of Texas had been appointed as a member of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) for a three-year term; NSPS had recommended Dr. Edwards’ appointment over the last year; On March 25-26, Dr. Edwards attended his first meeting as a member of the NGAC and met with Dr. Andrea Travnicek, the Chair of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC).
- On March 13, NSPS led efforts for a bipartisan House letter to the Appropriations Committee calling for robust funding in FY2027 for NOAA’s Digital Coast Program.
- On March 20, NSPS led efforts for a bipartisan House letter to the Appropriations Committee calling for robust funding in FY2027 for USGS’s 3D Elevation Program (3DEP).
- On April 9, NSPS Executive Director Tim Burch attended the USGS 3DEP Coalition meeting in Washington, DC featuring USGS Leadership and coalition allies in hearing where 3DEP, 3DHP, and 3DNTM were, and where they were heading, as well as insight for the USGS 2027 Budget.

NSPS Government Affairs Issues

Appropriations/CR/Shutdown

As of April 6, eleven of the twelve annual appropriations for Fiscal Year 2026 were signed into law to help keep the Federal government open through September 30. The bill funding the Department of Homeland Security, which included FEMA’s flood mapping program, is still being negotiated with a partial government shutdown now underway.

Department of Commerce

Artificial Intelligence

On March 20, the White House issued a national policy framework for AI focused on AI development, including data infrastructure buildout, should strengthen American communities and small businesses through economic growth and energy dominance, while ensuring communities are protected from harmful impacts. It said that Congress should streamline federal permitting for AI infrastructure construction and operation so AI developers can develop or procure on-site and behind-the-meter power generation to accelerate AI infrastructure buildout and enhance grid reliability, and that Congress should preempt state AI laws that impose undue burdens to ensure a minimally burdensome national standard consistent with these recommendations, not fifty discordant ones.

Digital Coast

The current Digital Coast Act authorization expired in September 2025. In June 2025, Representatives Dave Min (D-CA) and Rob Wittman (R-VA) introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives, H.R. 4256, to reauthorize NOAA's Digital Coast program through 2030. NSPS has been leading a coalition of stakeholders supporting the bill. A companion bill, S. 2245, was introduced in the U.S. Senate in July 2025 by Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK). In October 2025, the House Natural Resources Committee filed a report for H.R. 4256. On February 26, the Senate passed S. 2175 by Unanimous Consent.

On March 13, NSPS led the efforts to secure ten bipartisan House members to cosign a House letter led by Reps. Kevin Mullin (D-CA) and Buddy Carter (R-GA) requesting the Appropriations Committees to “fully fund the Digital Coast Program” at \$4 million in FY2027, as authorized.

The Senate Appropriations Committee Report included this language for FY2026:

“Digital Coast.—The Committee provides \$3,500,000 for the implementation of the Digital Coast Act (Public Law 116–223).”

Great Lakes Mapping Act

In April 2025, H.R. 2731, the “Great Lakes Mapping Act of 2025” was introduced by Reps. Lisa McClain (R-MI) and Debbie Dingell (D-MI), and now with 18 bipartisan cosponsors. Section 2 authorizes NOAA mapping for \$50 Million through FY2029 while producing a high-resolution map of the lakebeds of the Great Lakes and collecting and processing high-resolution bathymetric data about the lakebeds of the Great Lakes. The bill also references Digital Coast Act and the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act.

Spectrum Policy

In September 2025, NSPS Federal Lobbyist John “JB” Byrd attended the National Telecommunication and Information Administration’s (NTIA) 2025 Spectrum Policy Symposium in Washington, DC. Keynote speakers included U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) and NTIA Administrator Arielle Roth, a former aide to Chairman Cruz when she served as a policy director on the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. Following her prepared remarks, Byrd briefly spoke with Administrator Roth and communicated the critical work that NTIA is doing to help and promote NOAA as part of national spectrum policy.

Department of Education

Workforce Development

NSPS has joined more than 600 other associations and professional societies in a coalition to support the "Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act". This bipartisan legislation would expand qualified expenses under 529 savings plans to include postsecondary training and credentialing programs, such as licenses and non-governmental certifications, and provide valuable tax-advantaged resources to more workers pursuing career growth, mid-career changes or alternative career pathways. In 2025, Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA) reintroduced the bill, H.R. 1151 with 203 bipartisan cosponsors. The “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” a

reconciliation package signed into law on July 4, 2025, includes the "Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act".

In July 2025, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and the U.S. Department of Education announced that they are implementing a workforce development partnership to create an integrated federal education and workforce system. DOL will take on a greater role in administering the adult education and family literacy programs funded under Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs funded by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. Administering Perkins V/WIOA through DOL will facilitate streamlined services for states and grantees, ultimately benefiting students and adult learners throughout America.

Department of Health and Human Services/FDA

Alpha-gal Syndrome (NOTE: 2026 Day on the Hill Issue)

In February 2025, Rep. Jeff Van Drew (R-NJ) introduced H.R. 1178, the Alpha-gal Allergen Inclusion Act, and now with 38 bipartisan cosponsors, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to add alpha-gal to the definition of "major food allergen". Alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) is a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to red meat or other products containing alpha-gal, impacting hundreds of thousands of Americans across the nation. The surveying profession is impacted by tick-borne diseases and NSPS has consulted with staff of the Congressman. Alpha Gal Syndrome (AGS) is the meat allergy that develops from the Lone star Tick bite and there is no cure currently. Land Surveyors across the country are at risk of this. Land surveyors get bit by ticks all the time. Alpha gal / mammal products are in almost every medicine but not listed to the public. Going to the pharmacy or grocery store with AGS is problematic. If a surveyor eats the wrong thing, then they may end up sick in bed for 1 to 6 days at a time.

Department of Homeland Security/FEMA

FEMA/NFIP Reform

In September 2025, Reps. Troy Downing (R-MT) and Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX) introduced H.R. 5229, bipartisan legislation to provide mapping reforms to FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The "Improvement of Mapping, Addresses, Geography, Elevations, and Structures (IMAGES) Act of 2025" would require surveying and mapping data collected be made available to the public, which can be used in flood risk management, flood map appeals, infrastructure, water resources, aviation safety, fire prevention, and telecommunications, and more.

For FY2026 funding, the House Appropriations Committee Report included this language for FY2026:

"Flood Hazard Mapping and Risk Analysis Program \$312,750,000"

Monument Preservation

NSPS is advocating legislation to enable property owners impacted by a natural disaster (wildfire, hurricane, tornado, etc.) to be eligible for assistance to preserve and re-establish destroyed survey monumentation (e.g. property corners) that are destroyed by the disaster, in order to preserve their property rights, return to their home or business, and rebuild. While the primary agency impacted is FEMA within DHS, the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture will also have roles to play and especially as coordinating with Governors and other local stakeholders.

In September 2025, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee advanced the Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act of 2025 (H.R. 4669). The bill streamlines the federal government's disaster response and recovery programs while also making FEMA a cabinet-level agency once again that is directly accountable to the President. NSPS worked closely with Reps. Dusty Johnson (R-SD) and Sharice Davids (D-KS) as these lawmakers sponsored language found in Section 216 amending the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act by covering the cost of replacement through financial assistance

for replacement of such residence for a total loss, including any necessary site preparation work such as land surveys.

For FY2027 funding, the following report language has NOT been finalized due to the ongoing partial government shutdown as Congress is still debating how to fund DHS, but once DHS funding gets resolved, this language should be considered a major victory for NSPS:

“Preservation of Surveyors Marks.-Within 180 days of the date of enactment of this Act, FEMA shall provide a briefing to the Committees on the potential benefits of including surveying mark preservation performed by land surveyors as a core activity for disaster planning, emergency response, disaster cleanup, and disaster recovery efforts.”

Department of the Interior

3DEP

In August 2025, NSPS Federal Lobbyist John “JB” Byrd attended an online meeting with the acting Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Budget Examiner for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) as part of the USGS 3DEP Coalition that NSPS coordinates to discuss the FY2027 USGS 3DEP Budget.

NSPS has been a leader in efforts to ensure the program is fully funded at \$146 million per year. In May 2025, NSPS led the efforts to secure twenty-five bipartisan House members to cosign a House letter, and nine Senators to cosign the Senate letter. The Senate letter was led by Sens. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Dan Sullivan (R-AK), and the House letter was led by Reps. Susan DelBene (D-WA) and Jeff Crank (R-CO). The letters request “robust funding” from the Appropriations Committees.

The Explanatory Statement for FY2026 funding of the Interior Department included this language:

“The National Geospatial program is funded at \$91,421,000, including \$43,905,000 for the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP), which maintains funding for the National Digital Trails project at the fiscal year 2024 enacted level. The agreement includes \$1,000,000 for the 3D Hydrography Program (3DHP). ... Science Support.- The agreement provides \$73,683,000, which includes \$56,708,000 for Administration and Management, and \$16,975,000 is for Information Services. ... Core Science Systems, National Geospatial Program, 3DEP Western States \$6,000,000...Core Science Systems, Alaska Mapping and Map Modernization \$10,000,000”

On March 20, NSPS led the efforts to secure twenty bipartisan House members to cosign a House letter led by Reps. Suzan DelBene (D-WA) and Jeff Crank (R-CO) requesting “robust funding” for USGS 3DEP in FY2027.

In March 2025, H.R. 2250, the “National Landslide Preparedness Act Reauthorization Act of 2025” was introduced by Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-WA), and now with 8 bipartisan cosponsors. Section 3 reauthorizes USGS 3DEP for \$40 Million through FY20230. On January 8, the House Natural Resources Committee reported the bill out of committee. On January 5, S. 1626, the “National Landslide Preparedness Act Reauthorization Act of 2025” as introduced by Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA), was passed by the Senate by Unanimous Consent. Section 3 reauthorizes USGS 3DEP for \$40 Million through FY20230.

FLAIR Act

NSPS is now seeking Congressional oversight of Federal agencies responsible for implementing a major legislative victory in the 2022 enactment of the Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform (FLAIR) Act. This law provided for a current, accurate inventory (“cadastre”) of Federal land owned by the Department of the Interior as well as the U.S. Forest Service. Agencies failed to meet a deadline in the law for a report to Congress on its implementation. The FLAIR Act will assist surveyors when doing survey records research or building a GIS by making such data access and integration much more efficient. In March 2025, Miller/Wenhold Government

Affairs sent a detailed letter to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum urging prompt action on these now seriously overdue deliverables to Congress.

Geospatial Governance -- COGO/FGDC/NGAC/GDA

The Office of Management & Budget (OMB) has determined that the Geospatial Data Act (GDA) guidance will be provided through a revision of Circular A-16. The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) provides advice and recommendations on national geospatial policy and management issues, the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), and the implementation of the Geospatial Data Act of 2018. The NSDI promotes geospatial data sharing across all levels of government, the private and non-profit sectors, and the academic community. In early March, NSPS learned that NSPS Past President Dr. Davey Edwards of Texas had been appointed as a member of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) for a three-year term; On March 25-25, Dr. Edwards attended his first meeting as a member of the NGAC and met with Dr. Andrea Travnicek, the Chair of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC).

National GIS Day

In November 2025, Representatives Pete Aguilar (D-CA) and Jay Obernolte (R-CA) introduced a resolution (H.Res.890) officially designating November 19, 2025, as National Geographic Information System (GIS) Day. In a news release announcing the resolution, Reps. Aguilar and Obernolte recognized NSPS and included a quote in support from NSPS President Linda Foster.

Sinkhole Mapping

In July 2025, the House passed H.R. 900, the Sinkhole Mapping Act, with 8 bipartisan cosponsors, by voice vote; NSPS worked with the bill sponsors to get the USGS 3DEP language to Section 2 of the bill language into the bill prior to introduction this Congress. FSMS and NSPS provided letters and/or quotes in support of the bill.

Snowpack Mapping

In June 2025, H.R 3857, the "Snow Water Supply Forecasting Reauthorization Act" was introduced by Representatives Jeff Hurd (R-CO) and Joe Neguse (D-CO) and a legislative hearing was held in June in the House Natural Resources Committee. Section 2 of the bill modernizes the program to include commercial options for airborne laser altimetry; airborne imaging spectroscopy; integrated physics-based snowpack and hydrologic modeling; and other technologies that the Secretary determines are likely to provide more accurate or timely snowpack measurement data commensurate with operational water management needs. In late July 2025, S. 2437, the "Snow Water Supply Forecasting Reauthorization Act" was introduced by Sens. John Hickenlooper (D-CO) and John Curtis (R-UT). On March 17, both versions of the bill were subject to a legislative hearing in the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee.

Department of Labor

Davis-Bacon

In 2013, the Obama Administration issued AAM 212 seeking Davis-Bacon Act expansion to more technician-level surveying activities, and the Trump Administration's rescission of the Obama order, AAM 235, issued in 2020 after an extensive lobbying campaign by NSPS. The substance of AAM 212 was reintroduced in the Biden Administration rulemaking made final in August 2023.

In May 2025, the SBA Office of Advocacy submitted public comments to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recommending repeal of the updated DBA Regulations:

*"Updating the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts Regulations. This rule updates regulations issued under the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA). The rule impacts small businesses with federal construction contracts exceeding \$2,000. The final rule expanded coverage of the DBRA to additional industries and changed the calculation of prevailing wages which increased pay. Specifically, the DBRA coverage expanded to small businesses including prefabrication businesses, material suppliers, truck drivers, demolition companies, flaggers, **surveyors**, and green technology businesses. Advocacy*

is concerned that DOL underrepresented costs to small businesses in this rule by not accounting for administrative costs, increased wages, and changes in enforcement requirements on small businesses. This rule is currently in federal litigation and parts of it have been stayed. Advocacy recommends this rule be repealed.”

In the summer of 2025, Miller/Wenhold Government Affairs, on behalf of NSPS, wrote to the political leadership of the Department of Labor seeking a repeal of the survey crew provisions in the August 2023 Biden-era Davis Bacon rules.

Occupational Licensing

In September 2025, Rep. John Joyce (R-PA) reintroduced a “Sense of the Congress” resolution H.Con.Res. 47 on design professional licensure. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) is the lead cosponsor on the bipartisan resolution. This Congressional resolution distinguishes the important role licensing of design professionals plays in protecting the public health, safety, and welfare in the current debate over occupational licensing reform. The design professions include but are not limited to architecture, engineering, surveying and mapping. The resolution, although non-binding, sends a signal to states that they should not affect these professions in occupational licensing reform. While the case for reform of licensing in some occupations is desirable, bills introduced in some state legislatures are too broadly drafted and fail to exempt or recognize the importance of licensing of design professionals. The introduction of this resolution sends a strong message from Congress to the states that care should be taken to preserve the necessary and legitimate licensing of architects, engineers and surveyors.

Department of Transportation

Comprehensive Infrastructure Legislation

In November 2021, President Biden signed into law H.R. 3684, the “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA),” now Public Law 117-58, the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill. Commonly known as the highway bill, the funding ends September 30, 2026.

Geodesy Prioritization in the 2026 Highway Bill (NOTE: 2026 Day on the Hill Issue)

In 2023, a special NSPS Task Force on the Geodesy Crisis authored a 1-pager explaining the issue, the consequences for the country, and the connection to the surveying profession. In June 2025, NSPS led an effort with coordinated public comments from a wide variety of key constituencies to help advise the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as to the importance of the National Spatial Reference System and why the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) would be a counterproductive to infrastructure projects nationwide as well as inconsistent with the Geospatial Data Act of 2018.

The surveying profession plays an important part in the U.S. economy. Everyday government and free enterprise rely upon surveying, mapping, and geospatial data for the creation, management, and enhancement of transportation and infrastructure of the United States, among other vital uses. Geodesy is the science that studies the Earth’s shape, orientation, and position and geodesists are scientists that can determine where things are and where they are going with extreme accuracy. This is the science that underpins national defense, infrastructure, space, and commerce, among many other sectors.

As connected to geodesy and the surveying profession, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) defines digital infrastructure as “collective public and private technology assets that create, exchange, or use data or information to improve the transportation system by the provision of existing and new services for travelers, businesses, and agencies.”

For the 2026 Highway Bill, there is a need by USDOT’s Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) to leverage the surveying profession and geodesy for the creation of survey grade data as part of BTS plans for the creation, management, and dissemination of Roadway Electronic Navigational Charts (Road-ENCs). Just as waterborne

vessels use Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) and aircraft use aeronautical charts, a National HD Map employing Road-ENCs will be vital for road safety and increased economy for road users. This newer technology and emerging applications, such as autonomous vehicles (AVs), will be reliant on the positional accuracy of GPS and geodesy-- both connected to the surveying profession.

The 119th Congress is well-positioned to assist the stabilization of geodesy nationwide while also making sure USDOT achieves safer roads and increased economy for roadway users. NSPS supports draft legislation known as the “Measures for HD Mapping Act” for inclusion in the 2026 Highway Bill. This important legislation will:

- Authorize BTS to create, maintain, and disseminate the National HD Map, and related activities, consistent with and leveraging the current official National Spatial Reference System (NSRS) as defined by the National Geodetic Survey; and
- Provide for an interagency budget crosscut and coordination report to federal government agencies benefiting from GPS, federal government agencies responsible for operating or maintaining GPS, and investments in education and research in geodesy and related fields to modernize GPS and replenish the talent pipeline.

LiDAR Restriction

In July 2025, H.R. 4802, the “Securing Infrastructure from Adversaries Act” was introduced by Reps. Dusty Johnson (R-SD) and Julia Brownley (D-CA). The bill prohibits USDOT from using or procuring foreign adversary Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) digital mapping technology to create 3-D maps with millimeter-level data of surrounding environments. The legislation does have exemptions for motor vehicles. On March 5, S. 4000, the companion bill was introduced by Sens. Ted Budd (R-NC), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Tom Cotton (R-AR), and Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE).

MAP Roads Act

In September 2025, Representatives Blake Moore (R-UT), Val Hoyle (D-OR), Jeff Hurd (R-CO), and Susie Lee (D-NV) introduced H.R. 5479, The Modernizing Access to Public (MAP) Roads Act, and now with 7 bipartisan cosponsors. The bill establishes a 5-year pilot program through the U.S. DOT to establish map standardization, improve access, and resolve user challenges. It also supports county road digitization by converting paper or outdated formats into standardized digital data sets. The bill creates statewide road data repositories that are publicly accessible, distinguish between public and private roads, and are compatible with third-party mapping platforms. In addition, it allows states to utilize funds for county subgrants, personnel training, or hiring contractors for data conversion; also authorizes \$20,000,000 per year from 2026 through 2031. On January 15, a delegation from NSPS including Sean Ireland of Utah, NSPS President Linda Foster of South Dakota, NSPS Executive Director Tim Burch, and NSPS Federal Lobbyist John “JB” Byrd met with legislative staff for Rep. Moore to learn about his bill, request clarification on the type of data and uses, and determine how may NSPS be supportive.

PHMSA

PHMSA’s most recent authorization expired on September 30, 2023. In the 119th Congress, three different committees in Congress are working progressing legislation reauthorizing the Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), including the Promoting Innovation in Pipeline Efficiency and Safety (PIPES) Act, with a connection to the role of the surveying profession and Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE). The three Committees are: House Energy and Commerce Committee; Transportation and Infrastructure Committee; and the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee.

In September 2025, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee passed the Promoting Innovation in Pipeline Efficiency and Safety (PIPES) Act of 2025, H.R. 5301, to reauthorize PHMSA for four years using \$804 million overall. On February 11, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee passed S. 2975, the Pipeline Integrity, Protection, and Enhancement for Leveraging Investments in the Nation’s Energy to assure Safety, or PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025. The bill reauthorizes the PHMSA pipeline safety program

for five years and authorizes \$1.65 billion in funding. On March 4, the House Energy & Commerce Committee held a legislative hearing on the third and final bill called the Pipeline Safety Authorization Act of 2026.

Railroad Abandonment

In March 2025, a NSPS delegation visited with professional staff of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee as part of the NSPS Day on the Hill. Attendees included NSPS Past Presidents Bob Akins, of Ohio and Dr. Davey Edwards, of Texas, NSPS Directors Mike Zahner of Missouri and Joe Dolan of New Jersey, and NSPS Federal Lobbyist John “JB” Byrd. NSPS has also hosted a zoom with representatives from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) to brainstorm on ways that they may be able to help find a solution to this issue.

Department of War

**** (Department of Defense renamed by Executive Order on September 5, 2025) ****

TAP Pilot for the Surveying Profession (NOTE: 2026 Day on the Hill Issue)

NSPS is pursuing a Workforce Development provision for the 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) by adding language to the House NDAA that would create a pilot program within the DoD Transition Assistance Program (TAP) to spur certain categories and classifications of servicemen and women, with military experience in surveying, mapping and geospatial skills who are transitioning out of the military and into civilian life and careers and help them toward pursuing the surveying profession as the next step in their respective careers. NSPS is also pursuing “report language” in the 2027 Defense Appropriations bill.

In September 2025, the House Rules Committee considered an amendment (#348) to H.R. 3838, the 2026 NDAA, sponsored by Rep. Sheri Biggs (R-SC), and cosponsored by Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA), that would create a pilot in DoD TAP to help match these transitioning service members with professional opportunities in the surveying profession should they have some surveying skillsets or training as part of their military service. Unfortunately, the Biggs’ amendment was not “made in order” for consideration and movement on the House floor. NSPS is working closely with Rep. Biggs on introducing a standalone bill branded as the “Service to Surveyors Act” to address this issue.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Broadband Mapping

NSPS is pursuing introduction of the Broadband Asset Surety Enhancement (BASE) Mapping Act, and inclusion of this bill as part of the 2026 Farm Bill.

Congressional GPS Caucus

In February 2021, Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ) joined Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE) as bipartisan co-chairs of House GPS Caucus to promote the benefits of GPS technology. The Caucus endeavors to educate Members of Congress and their staff on the societal benefits of GPS technology including support of economic growth, national security, and modernized infrastructure while advocating for the continuous availability, accuracy, reliability, and resiliency of the GPS constellation. The Senate GPS Caucus is co-chaired by Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Joni Ernst (R-IA). NSPS has been in contact with these Congressional offices to offer the help of the Surveying Profession to the goals of the Caucus, and specifically to help with the messaging and counterbalancing the Ligado policy advocacy on Capitol Hill. NSPS recently learned that Reps. Sharice Davids (D-KS) and Jeff Crank (R-CO) will soon re-launch the House GPS Caucus.

Ligado/LightSquared

NSPS is an active participant in coalitions seeking to prevent GPS spectrum interference. April 20, 2026 marks the sixth anniversary of the controversial approval of the Ligado order by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which studies show will likely cause harmful interference to GPS. NSPS opposed this

action taken by the FCC and has repeatedly requested the FCC rescind and overturn or “stay” the order, including participating in a 2022 study by the National Academies of Science (NAS). In April 2026, NSPS will have joined numerous other organizations on a letter to the Federal Communications Commission urging reconsideration of the 2020 Ligado Order.

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

Drones

In December 2025, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recommended banning the use of drones and components manufactured from “covered nations” like China. Components also banned include Data transmission devices, Navigation systems, Sensors and Cameras. FCC stated concerns that the equipment posed “an unacceptable risk” to national security.

Privacy

In February 2025, Congressman Brett Guthrie (R-KY), Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Congressman John Joyce, M.D. (R-PA), Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, announced the establishment of a comprehensive data privacy working group. In April 2025, Miller/Wenhold provided a response to their request for information (RFI) for feedback from stakeholders on a framework on data privacy and security. In August 2025, NSPS Federal Lobbyist John “JB” Byrd met with staff of Rep. Joyce to discuss this issue in more detail as the Committee moves closer to drafting new legislation this Congress. In December 2025, Sens. Christopher Coons (D-DE) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) introduced the Platform Accountability and Transparency Act (S. 3292), and now with 2 bipartisan cosponsors, which supports research about the impact of digital communication platforms on society by providing privacy-protected, secure pathways for independent research on data held by large internet companies. The bill defines “Qualified Data and Information” by exempting “Precise Geospatial Information”.

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)/General Services Administration (GSA)/Small Business Administration (SBA)

CIPC

NSPS is a member of the Construction Industry Procurement Coalition (CIPC) having helped launch the bipartisan Construction Procurement Caucus (CPC) in 2021. Current CPC leadership in the House includes Representatives Pete Stauber (R-MN) and Hillary Scholten (D-MI).

OMB Circular A-76

In September 2025, NSPS Federal Lobbyist John “JB” Byrd, working through the Business Coalition for Fair Competition (BCFC), of which NSPS is a member, met next door to The White House, with Dr. Kevin Rhodes, senior adviser and his policy staff at of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on reforms to federal policy impacting government contracting and use of the private sector. NSPS also took the opportunity to highlight the “yellow pages test” bill, H.R. 1554, re-introduced in 2025 by Rep. Aaron Bean (R-FL) and now with 5 cosponsors. This "Freedom from Government Competition Act" (FFGCA), a bill long supported by NSPS, establishes a process by which Federal agencies analyze their commercial activities (those for which private sector providers can be found in the Yellow Pages of the phone book) to determine whether government employees or private companies are the most efficient and economical provider of such services, thereby lifting the moratorium on OMB Circular A-76. Miller/Wenhold Government Affairs is looking for a Senate sponsor of companion legislation. In October 2025, the Senate confirmed Dr. Rhodes to lead the White House procurement office known as the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP).