The 3D Elevation Program (3DEP)

**Action Requested:** For FY 2020, Congress should appropriate funds for the 3DEP program at an optimal annual level among all participating agencies. Specifically, our request and recommendation for the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are to provide for at least $39.1 million in funding for the U.S. Geological Survey and no less than $159.75 million for all participating agencies – which is the required annual investment needed to finish the program by 2023.

**Summary:** The 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) initiative, led by USGS, is accelerating the rate of three-dimensional (3D) elevation data collection in response to a call for action to address a wide range of urgent needs nationwide. It began in 2012 with the recommendation to collect (1) high-quality light detection and ranging (LiDAR) data for the conterminous United States (CONUS), Hawaii, and the U.S. territories and (2) interferometric synthetic aperture radar (IFSAR) data for Alaska. The original driving force for creating enhanced elevation data inventory was the poor state and inaccuracy of the existing floodplain mapping. Once the effort started the demand for more accurate elevation data is now coming from a variety of sources, in part fueled by widespread access to high-resolution imagery and the rapid acceptance of LiDAR for a growing number of applications.

The 3DEP program now provides vital information for a variety of critical programs across the federal government. The consistent, high-quality topographic data and other three-dimensional representations of the Nation’s natural and constructed features it produces are used in disparate industries including homeland security, flood risk management, aviation safety, telecommunications, and agriculture. Additionally, as we look to revitalize our nation’s infrastructure and transportation sectors, 3DEP will be a valuable resource.

This program promotes economic growth and facilitates responsible environmental protection and resource development and management – and has a return on investment of more than 4.7 to 1. It is also important to note that as of this year 3DEP hit an important milestone having reached the 50% completion mark for mapping the nation – and has a goal to complete the entire country by 2023.

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<td>Agency: Department of Interior</td>
<td>Program: Core Science Systems</td>
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MAPPS looks forward to working with Congress to continue building on past success and further support the Interior Department’s surveying, mapping and geospatial activities. For additional information please reach out MAPPS Legislative Director Ed Cox at edward.cox@prime-policy.com, (202) 530-4591.
3D Elevation Program: FY18 Status of 3DEP Quality Data

As of 09/13/2018

For more on the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) visit:
http://www.nationalmap.gov/3DEP

Visit the US Interagency
Elevation Inventory (USIEI) at:
http://coast.noaa.gov/inventory/

Map showing the total extent and quality level of planned, in progress, and existing publicly available lidar (Lidar in Alaska) data identified by the U.S. Interagency Elevation Inventory (USIEI) that meet 3DEP base-level specification as of September 2018. 3DEP base-level specification data are defined as quality level 2 or better lidar data (Lidar in Alaska) and 8 years old or newer. The inventory was produced in partnership by the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. While every attempt has been made to accurately inventory projects that are publicly available, some errors and omissions may occur.

EXPLANATION
In-Progress and Existing Data that Meet 3DEP Specification
- Lidar
- LiSAR
- Other Lidar
- No Publicly Available Lidar Data (LiSAR in Alaska)