

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 2426

AN ACT

To encourage the development and integrated use by the public and private sectors of remote sensing and other geospatial information, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Remote Sensing Appli-
3 cations Act of 2002”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds that—

6 (1) although urban land use planning, growth
7 management, and other functions of State, local, re-
8 gional, and tribal agencies are rightfully within their
9 jurisdiction, the Federal Government can and should
10 play an important role in the development and dem-
11 onstration of innovative techniques to improve com-
12 prehensive land use planning and growth manage-
13 ment;

14 (2) the United States is making a major invest-
15 ment in acquiring remote sensing and other
16 geospatial information from both governmental and
17 commercial sources;

18 (3) while much of the data is being acquired for
19 scientific and national security purposes, it also can
20 have important applications to help meet societal
21 goals;

22 (4) it has already been demonstrated that
23 Landsat data and other earth observation data can
24 be of enormous assistance to Federal, State, local,
25 regional, and tribal agencies for urban land use

1 planning, coastal zone management, natural and cul-
2 tural resource management, and disaster monitoring;

3 (5) remote sensing, coupled with the emergence
4 of geographic information systems and satellite-
5 based positioning information, offers the capability
6 of developing important new applications of inte-
7 grated sets of geospatial information to address soci-
8 etal needs;

9 (6) the full range of applications of remote
10 sensing and other forms of geospatial information to
11 meeting public sector requirements has not been
12 adequately explored or exploited;

13 (7) the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of
14 1992, Presidential Decision Directive 23 of 1994,
15 and the Commercial Space Act of 1998 all support
16 and promote the development of United States com-
17 mercial remote sensing capabilities;

18 (8) many State, local, regional, tribal, and Fed-
19 eral agencies are unaware of the utility of remote
20 sensing and other geospatial information for meeting
21 their needs, even when research has demonstrated
22 the potential applications of that information;

23 (9) remote sensing and other geospatial infor-
24 mation can be particularly useful to State, local, re-
25 gional, and tribal agencies in the area of urban plan-

1 ning, especially in their efforts to plan for and man-
2 age the impacts of growth, development, and sprawl,
3 as well as in environmental impact and disaster re-
4 lief planning and management;

5 (10) the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
6 ministration, in coordination with other agencies,
7 can play a unique role in demonstrating how data
8 acquired for scientific purposes, when combined with
9 other data sources and processing capabilities, can
10 be applied to assist State, local, regional, and tribal
11 agencies and the private sector in decisionmaking in
12 such areas as agriculture, weather forecasting, and
13 forest management; and

14 (11) in addition, the National Aeronautics and
15 Space Administration, in conjunction with other
16 agencies, can play a unique role in stimulating the
17 development of the remote sensing and other
18 geospatial information sector through pilot projects
19 to demonstrate the value of integrating govern-
20 mental and commercial remote sensing data with ge-
21 ographic information systems and satellite-based po-
22 sitioning data to provide useful applications prod-
23 ucts.

24 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this Act—

1 (1) the term “Administrator” means the Ad-
2 ministrator of the National Aeronautics and Space
3 Administration;

4 (2) the term “geospatial information” means
5 knowledge of the nature and distribution of physical
6 and cultural features on the landscape based on
7 analysis of data from airborne or spaceborne plat-
8 forms or other types and sources of data; and

9 (3) the term “institution of higher education”
10 has the meaning given that term in section 101(a)
11 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
12 1001(a)).

13 **SEC. 4. PILOT PROJECTS TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC SECTOR**
14 **APPLICATIONS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish
16 a program of grants for competitively awarded pilot
17 projects to explore the integrated use of sources of remote
18 sensing and other geospatial information to address State,
19 local, regional, and tribal agency needs.

20 (b) PREFERRED PROJECTS.—In awarding grants
21 under this section, the Administrator shall give preference
22 to projects that—

23 (1) make use of existing public or commercial
24 data sets;

1 (2) integrate multiple sources of geospatial in-
2 formation, such as geographic information system
3 data, satellite-provided positioning data, and re-
4 motely sensed data, in innovative ways;

5 (3) include funds or in-kind contributions from
6 non-Federal sources;

7 (4) involve the participation of commercial enti-
8 ties that process raw or lightly processed data, often
9 merging that data with other geospatial information,
10 to create data products that have significant value
11 added to the original data; and

12 (5) taken together demonstrate as diverse a set
13 of public sector applications as possible.

14 (c) OPPORTUNITIES.—In carrying out this section,
15 the Administrator shall seek opportunities to assist—

16 (1) in the development of commercial applica-
17 tions potentially available from the remote sensing
18 industry; and

19 (2) State, local, regional, and tribal agencies in
20 applying remote sensing and other geospatial infor-
21 mation technologies for growth management.

22 (d) DURATION.—Assistance for a pilot project under
23 subsection (a) shall be provided for a period not to exceed
24 3 years.

1 (e) REPORT.—Each recipient of a grant under sub-
2 section (a) shall transmit a report to the Administrator
3 on the results of the pilot project within 180 days of the
4 completion of that project.

5 (f) WORKSHOP.—Each recipient of a grant under
6 subsection (a) shall, not later than 180 days after the com-
7 pletion of the pilot project, conduct at least one workshop
8 for potential users to disseminate the lessons learned from
9 the pilot project as widely as feasible.

10 (g) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator shall issue
11 regulations establishing application, selection, and imple-
12 mentation procedures for pilot projects, and guidelines for
13 reports and workshops required by this section.

14 **SEC. 5. PROGRAM EVALUATION.**

15 (a) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Administrator
16 shall establish an advisory committee, consisting of indi-
17 viduals with appropriate expertise in State, local, regional,
18 and tribal agencies, the university research community,
19 and the remote sensing and other geospatial information
20 industry, to monitor the program established under sec-
21 tion 4. The advisory committee shall consult with the Fed-
22 eral Geographic Data Committee and other appropriate
23 industry representatives and organizations. Notwith-
24 standing section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee
25 Act, the advisory committee established under this sub-

1 section shall remain in effect until the termination of the
2 program under section 4.

3 (b) EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION.—Not later than
4 December 31, 2006, the Administrator shall transmit to
5 the Congress an evaluation of the effectiveness of the pro-
6 gram established under section 4 in exploring and pro-
7 moting the integrated use of sources of remote sensing
8 and other geospatial information to address State, local,
9 regional, and tribal agency needs. Such evaluation shall
10 have been conducted by an independent entity.

11 **SEC. 6. DATA AVAILABILITY.**

12 The Administrator shall ensure that the results of
13 each of the pilot projects completed under section 4 shall
14 be retrievable through an electronic, Internet-accessible
15 database.

16 **SEC. 7. EDUCATION.**

17 The Administrator shall establish an educational out-
18 reach program to increase awareness at institutions of
19 higher education and State, local, regional, and tribal
20 agencies of the potential applications of remote sensing
21 and other geospatial information.

22 **SEC. 8. COST SENSITIVITY STUDY.**

23 The Administrator shall conduct a study of the effect
24 of remote sensing imagery costs on potential State, local,
25 regional, and tribal agency applications. The study shall

1 identify applications that are likely to be most affected by
2 reductions in the cost of remote sensing imagery. Not later
3 than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act,
4 the Administrator shall transmit to the Congress the re-
5 sults of the study conducted under this section.

6 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Ad-
8 ministrator \$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2003
9 through 2007 to carry out this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives October 1,
2002.

Attest:

Clerk.

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