

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2489

To authorize a comprehensive national cooperative geospatial imagery mapping program through the United States Geological Survey, to promote use of the program for education, workforce training and development, and applied research, and to support Federal, State, tribal, and local government programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 19, 2009

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN (for herself and Mr. LATOURETTE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize a comprehensive national cooperative geospatial imagery mapping program through the United States Geological Survey, to promote use of the program for education, workforce training and development, and applied research, and to support Federal, State, tribal, and local government programs.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “AmericaView
5 Geospatial Imagery Mapping Program Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) when Federal geospatial imagery is avail-
4 able in a cost-effective and timely manner, State and
5 local governments and educational institutions are
6 able to develop new scientific, educational, and prac-
7 tical applications for the data and to adopt new tools
8 for applied research, education, and training, as evi-
9 denced by—

10 (A) the success of the United States Geo-
11 logical Survey (referred to in this Act as the
12 “USGS”) cooperative pilot projects OhioView
13 and Gateway to the Earth; and

14 (B) the 35 member StateView programs
15 cooperating in the AmericaView program;

16 (2) increased access to geospatial imagery for
17 research and educational purposes, made available
18 through the USGS and from State-level archives
19 linked to StateView program support, benefits user
20 communities that have traditionally struggled to af-
21 ford the data because it enables—

22 (A) educators to train—

23 (i) students at institutions of higher
24 education for technology careers in remote
25 sensing; and

1 (ii) teachers for use of remote sensing
2 data to enhance student learning in ele-
3 mentary and secondary education;

4 (B) historically black colleges and univer-
5 sities to partner with StateView program uni-
6 versities to enhance learning and training op-
7 portunities for students; and

8 (C) Native Americans to provide training
9 and education regarding—

10 (i) the use and application of remote
11 sensing data for Native American students;
12 and

13 (ii) developing satellite-based applica-
14 tions for managing reservation resources;

15 (3) institutions of higher education and State
16 and local government agencies use geospatial im-
17 agery to support practical mapping and monitoring
18 purposes, including—

19 (A) monitoring the health of Federal and
20 State land and forests;

21 (B) understanding ecosystems and pre-
22 dicting ecosystem change;

23 (C) mapping hydrologic systems and as-
24 ssuming water quality;

1 (D) monitoring crop productivity, assessing
2 damage, and predicting crop yield;

3 (E) assisting with transportation and land-
4 use planning in the urban areas of the United
5 States;

6 (F) predicting and assisting with the man-
7 agement of human and wildlife disease out-
8 breaks; and

9 (G) mapping natural hazards and assess-
10 ing risk; and

11 (4) the AmericaView program is uniquely posi-
12 tioned to help each State develop applications and
13 skills necessary—

14 (A) to effectively apply geospatial imagery
15 for multiple State-focused mapping purposes;
16 and

17 (B) to expand the use and benefits of
18 geospatial imagery for research and operational
19 purposes within each State.

20 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

21 In this Act:

22 (1) **AMERICAVIEW.**—The term “AmericaView”
23 means the national nonprofit collaboration of
24 StateView program participants cooperating with the

1 USGS to achieve the purposes of the AmericaView
2 program.

3 (2) AMERICAVIEW PROGRAM.—The term
4 “AmericaView program” means the national remote
5 sensing education, outreach, and research program
6 of the USGS established under section 4(a), com-
7 prised of—

8 (A) the AmericaView project; and

9 (B) AmericaView.

10 (3) AMERICAVIEW PROJECT.—The term
11 “AmericaView project” means the USGS data ar-
12 chive, development, maintenance, and product dis-
13 tribution program conducted at the Earth Resources
14 Observation and Science (EROS) Data Center.

15 (4) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term
16 “educational institution” means—

17 (A) any public or private elementary or
18 secondary school, vocational school, correspond-
19 ence school, business school, institution of high-
20 er education (including a junior college or
21 teachers’ college), normal school, professional
22 school, or scientific or technical institution; and

23 (B) any other institution that provides an
24 educational program.

1 (5) GEOSPATIAL IMAGERY.—The term
2 “geospatial imagery” means all information acquired
3 from above the surface of the Earth by satellite or
4 airplane.

5 (6) NATIONAL SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUC-
6 TURE.—The term “national spatial data infrastruc-
7 ture” means the technology, policies, standards, and
8 human resources necessary to acquire, process,
9 store, distribute, and improve use of geospatial data
10 for the United States established by Executive Order
11 12906 (59 Fed. Reg. 17671 (April 13, 1994)).

12 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
13 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
14 rector of the USGS.

15 (8) STATE.—The term “State” means—

16 (A) each of the several States of the
17 United States;

18 (B) the District of Columbia;

19 (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

20 (D) Guam;

21 (E) American Samoa;

22 (F) the Commonwealth of the Northern
23 Mariana Islands; and

24 (G) the United States Virgin Islands.

1 (9) STATEVIEW PROGRAM.—The term
2 “StateView program” means the AmericaView pro-
3 gram of an individual State, comprised of edu-
4 cational institutions and State and local govern-
5 ments.

6 **SEC. 4. AMERICAVIEW PROGRAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and
8 maintain a national remote sensing education, outreach,
9 and research program within the USGS to advance the
10 availability, timely distribution, and widespread use of
11 geospatial imagery for education, research, assessment,
12 and monitoring purposes in each State.

13 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the AmericaView
14 program are—

15 (1) to increase accessibility to, and expand the
16 use of, remote sensing data in a standard, easy-to-
17 use format by Federal, State, local, and tribal gov-
18 ernments, communities, educational institutions, and
19 the commercial sector; and

20 (2) to assist each StateView program in estab-
21 lishing the cooperative infrastructure necessary to
22 increase access to geospatial imagery for research
23 and educational purposes.

24 (c) ACTIVITIES.—

1 (1) AMERICAVIEW PROJECT.—The Secretary,
2 acting through the AmericaView project, shall sup-
3 port the geospatial imagery mapping research and
4 educational programs of each State by cooperating
5 with States—

6 (A) to identify new geospatial imagery
7 mapping needs and infrastructure and to de-
8 fine, consolidate; and

9 (B) to maintain the data requirements of
10 the AmericaView project.

11 (2) AMERICAVIEW PROGRAM.—The Secretary,
12 acting through the AmericaView program, shall
13 maintain AmericaView in each State—

14 (A) to share and cooperate in the develop-
15 ment of geospatial imagery mapping applica-
16 tions, education, and training infrastructure in
17 each State;

18 (B) to cooperate with the AmericaView
19 project to develop nationally consistent stand-
20 ards for geospatial imagery mapping in each
21 State;

22 (C) to expand the number of geospatial im-
23 agery mapping courses taught at educational
24 institutions and provide training, remote sens-
25 ing data, and teaching tools to educators;

1 (D) to expand geospatial imagery mapping
2 research at research educational institutions;

3 (E) to expand the knowledge and use of
4 geospatial imagery and map products in the
5 current workforce through outreach programs,
6 workshops, and other training opportunities;

7 (F) to build partnerships with local govern-
8 ments to identify unique research and develop-
9 ment needs and geospatial imagery mapping
10 pilot projects;

11 (G) to promote cooperation and sharing of
12 expertise regarding geospatial imagery among
13 participating States and within each partici-
14 pating State; and

15 (H) to enable the States to provide
16 geospatial imagery to the USGS.

17 (3) GRANTS.—The Secretary annually shall
18 provide grants to sustain and develop StateView pro-
19 grams.

20 (4) FEDERAL PARTNER ADVISORY COM-
21 MITTEE.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
23 maintain an advisory committee to advise the
24 Director of the USGS regarding the
25 AmericaView program.

1 (B) MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT.—

2 The advisory committee under subparagraph

3 (A) shall be composed of—

4 (i) at least 1 representative of each
5 of—

6 (I) AmericaView;

7 (II) the USGS; and

8 (III) the Department of Agri-
9 culture; and

10 (ii) representatives of such other
11 agencies as the Secretary may designate.

12 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
14 retary such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act
15 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014.

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