

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 496

To direct the Director of the United States Geological Survey to establish a program to map zones that are at greater risk of sinkhole formation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 11, 2019

Mr. SOTO (for himself, Mr. CRIST, and Mrs. MURPHY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Director of the United States Geological Survey to establish a program to map zones that are at greater risk of sinkhole formation, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Sinkhole Mapping Act
5 of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. SINKHOLE HAZARD IDENTIFICATION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the United States
8 Geological Survey shall establish a program to—

1 (1) study the short-term and long-term mecha-
2 nisms that cause sinkholes, including extreme storm
3 events, prolonged droughts causing shifts in water
4 management practices, aquifer depletion, and other
5 major changes in water use; and

6 (2) develop maps that depict zones that are at
7 greater risk of sinkhole formation.

8 (b) REVIEW OF MAPS.—Once during each 5-year pe-
9 riod, or more often as the Director of the United States
10 Geological Survey determines is necessary, the Director
11 shall assess the need to revise and update the maps devel-
12 oped under this section.

13 (c) WEBSITE.—The Director of the United States
14 Geological Survey shall establish and maintain a public
15 website that displays the maps developed under this sec-
16 tion and other relevant information critical for use by com-
17 munity planners and emergency managers.

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