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. CRYST, 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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

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

SEC. 2. SINKHOLE HAZARD IDENTIFICATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the United States Geological Survey shall establish a program to—
(1) study the short-term and long-term mechanisms that cause sinkholes, including extreme storm
events, prolonged droughts causing shifts in water
management practices, aquifer depletion, and other
major changes in water use; and

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

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

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