



December 19, 2012

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable John Boehner
H-232, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
S-221, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
H-204, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
S-230, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear President Obama, Speaker Boehner, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader Reid, and Minority Leader McConnell:

The USGS Coalition urges you to take a balanced approach to deficit reduction that does not include further cuts to non-defense discretionary programs, such as the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The USGS and other federal science agencies have already contributed substantially to deficit reduction through prior spending cuts and the spending caps agreed to in the bipartisan Budget Control Act.

Further cuts to USGS would have severe and long-lasting negative impacts on the agency's ability to fulfill its mission to provide impartial scientific advice to the Department of the Interior and the nation. USGS science informs the wise resource management of other DOI bureaus, state and local governments, and the private sector. The USGS provides the data and information required to protect people from natural hazards, ensure clean drinking water, assist land managers with forecasting and responding to wildfires, assess availability of mineral and energy resources, and manage ecosystems for the benefit of humans as well as fish and wildlife populations. The work of the USGS truly touches the lives of every American every day.

As Congress and the White House continue to seek a solution for the nation's deficit, we respectfully request that you do all you can to prevent additional cuts to the USGS.

The USGS Coalition is an alliance of over 70 organizations united by a commitment to the continued vitality of the USGS and its ability to provide critical data and services to the nation. The Coalition supports federal investment in USGS programs that underpin responsible natural resource stewardship, improve resilience to natural and human-induced hazards, and contribute to the long-term health, security, and prosperity of the nation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If the USGS Coalition may be of assistance to you during your deliberations, please do not hesitate to contact me at rgropp@aibs.org or 202-628-1500 x 250.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Robert Gropp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Gropp" clearly distinguishable.

Robert Gropp, Ph.D.
Chairman, USGS Coalition