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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

Opening Statement of
Chairman Doug Lamborn
Subcommittee on Energy & Mineral Resources
On Thursday, December 5, 2013
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Legislative Hearing on
Legislative hearing on H.R. 1604 (Lamborn), *Map It Once, Use It Many Times Act* and H.R. 916
(Kind/Bishop of UT), *Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform Act of 2013*

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I'd like to thank our witnesses for being with us today. Today we are holding a legislative hearing on two bills aimed at reducing federal bureaucracies and streamlining government inefficiencies in federal land management. These bills will also coordinate what are currently duplicative missions of multiple federal agencies to create a more efficient government and save taxpayer dollars by ensuring they are not being spent on duplicative efforts.

As technology advances, local, state and the federal government are increasingly turning to geospatial information for a variety of purposes. Multiple federal agencies, such as the Department of Transportation, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Defense, all use geospatial mapping for their own purposes. The challenge comes when these governments and government agencies are using taxpayer dollars for duplicative efforts in surveying and mapping. Rather than sharing information or coordinating efforts, these agencies often map the same areas on several occasions – duplicating the efforts of the other agencies and using taxpayer dollars to repeatedly map the same area.

On other occasions, these agencies acquire equipment, such as planes, ships or computer equipment, rather than contracting with private sector companies that specialize in conducting state of the art geospatial surveys.

In fact, my home state of Colorado is home to many outstanding geospatial and mapping companies who are anxious to work with the federal government to meet our geospatial surveying needs.

For decades, government reports have highlighted the problems facing the federal government's geospatial programs. Recognizing these challenges, government officials have attempted to coordinate these efforts by the various federal agencies. However, a November 2012 GAO report concluded that while policies and procedures for coordinating investments in geospatial data have been established, agencies have not effectively implemented them.

Today we will hear testimony on two bills. The first, my legislation, H.R. 1604, the “Map it Once, Use it Many Times Act,” establishes a National Geospatial Technology Administration that will oversee and coordinate all geospatial functions that are currently undertaken by multiple federal agencies. The Administration will also promulgate standards for ensuring the geospatial data collected will be used efficiently and effectively by all federal agencies.

We will also hear testimony on H.R. 916, the “Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform Act of 2013.” This bipartisan legislation will improve Federal land management, resource conservation and environmental protection by requiring the Secretary of the Interior to develop a comprehensive register of Federal property to identify inaccurate, duplicative, and out of date Federal land inventories.

These two bills will reduce duplicative federal efforts, ensure effective and efficient management of taxpayer dollars, and streamline federal geospatial mapping programs to ensure we will have a state of the art inventory of all federal lands that can be used across multiple federal agencies for their varying needs.

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