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**House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources
H.R. 4233, Map It Once, Use It Many Times Act**

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On behalf of myself, the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM) and the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS), I respectfully submit testimony for consideration of the Map It Once, Use It Many Times Act (H.R. 4233).

The American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM), and its largest Member Organization, the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS), are incorporated as non-profit educational organizations whose goal is to advance the sciences of surveying and mapping and related fields, in furtherance of the welfare of those who use and make maps. ACSM/NSPS strives to establish and further common interests, objectives, and political effort that would help bind the surveying profession into a unified body in the United States.

ACSM/NSPS members support the overall goals of H.R. 4233, but there are several parts of the bill that we believe should be changed so that more geospatial professionals can participate in the goals of the legislation. Some proposed changes are minor, but they are important.

The stated purpose of the Map It Once, Use It Many Times Act is “to establish the National Geospatial Technology Administration within the United States Geological Survey, to enhance the use of geospatial data, products, technology and services, to increase the economy and efficiency of Federal geospatial activities, and for other purposes.” ACSM/NSPS supports this purpose.

Title I, Sec. 106 Protection of Geospatial Data This section prohibits Federal prison inmates from having access to geospatial data regarding the location of (1) surface and subsurface infrastructure providing communications or water or electrical power distribution or transmission; (2) pipelines for the distribution or transmission of natural gas, bulk petroleum products, or other commodities; (3) other utilities; or (4) any personal or financial information about any individual private citizen, including information relating to such person’s real property however described.” ACSM/NSPS members strongly support this section. ACSM/NSPS has worked for years on the issue of preventing Federal inmates in programs like Federal Prison Industries from having access to personal geospatial data. This section would accomplish that goal.

Title II, Sec. 201, et seq. National Geospatial Policy Commission. ACSM/NSPS members support the establishment and duties of the National Geospatial Policy Commission. There is some concern with the composition of membership on the Commission, particularly as described in Section 203 (a) (8). While we support the inclusion of citizens with “experience in geospatial activities” from state, local tribal governments and a university; we are concerned with the designation of just one employee of a non-profit organization and four employees of private geospatial firms. We believe the equation should be three employees of non-profit organizations and three employees of private geospatial firms.

The geospatial community is expansive. There are several non-profit organizations, including ACSM/NSPS, that represent geospatial professionals in a wide variety of disciplines. Consequently, limiting membership on the Commission to only one employee of a non-profit organization will leave many geospatial professionals without representation on the Commission, thus preventing it from being well-rounded and inclusive, ultimately defeating the purpose of the Commission.

Title IV, Sec. 402 Strategy for Encouraging Federal Use of Private Geospatial Firms. ACSM and NSPS members are particularly concerned with the wording in Section 402 (a) of the Act. Section 402 (a) states: “Development of Strategy --- Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall cooperate with private geospatial firms, *and any associations composed exclusively of such firms*, (emphasis added) to develop a comprehensive strategy to encourage and enhance the use of private geospatial firms by Federal agencies and other entities that receive federal funds, including State and local governmental agencies, universities, nonprofit organizations and foreign governments.”

ACSM/NSPS members oppose the words “and any associations composed exclusively of such firms”. As noted earlier, the geospatial community is comprised of many organizations and associations that represent the various disciplines of the geospatial profession. ACSM/NSPS are professional associations comprised of individual geospatial professionals who work in the public and private sectors. Under the current language of Section 402 (a), ACSM/NSPS (as well as a number of other associations) would be excluded from participation in the development of geospatial strategy, as outlined in Section 402 (a). A suggestion would be that the word “exclusively” be removed from Section 402 (a).

Title IV, Sec. 402 (e) Development of Standard Clauses, Contracts and Form Licenses. Section 402 (e) states: “the Administrator shall, in consultation with trade associations and public interest groups, develop and promote standard clauses, contracts, and form licenses for use by the Federal Government in the acquisition of geospatial data.” The Act defines “geospatial data” as data (a) relating to natural and human made physical features and phenomena on or below the surface of the earth or in the space above the earth, which may include data on the size, shape and location of such features, and data on the legal boundaries relating to such features; and (b) developed by professionals,

including surveyors, photogrammetrists, hydrographers, geodesists and cartographers.
(Section 4 (3))

ACSM/NSPS members are concerned with the language of this section because it is somewhat ambiguous and could be misleading. Section 402 does not clearly define what “licenses for use” are to be developed.

Surveying professionals are licensed by the individual states to perform data collection and analysis related to these activities. ACSM/NSPS members feel it is critical that representatives of these professionals (through appropriate associations/organizations, or individuals) be involved in consultations with the Administrator regarding the development of any standard clauses, contracts, or licenses for use to be formed for the acquisition of geospatial data.

In conclusion, the ACSM/NSPS members support the overall goals of H.R. 4233, but are concerned with the sections discussed above.