

NICK J. RAHALL II, WV
CHAIRMAN
DALE E. KILDEE, MI
ENI F.H. FALCOMAVAEGA, AS
NEIL ABERCROMBIE, HI
FRANK PALLONE, JR., NJ
GRACE F. NAPOLITANO, CA
RUSH D. HOLT, NJ
RAUL M. GRIJALVA, AZ
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO, GU
JIM COSTA, CA
DAN BOREN, OK
GREGORIO SABLON, MP
MARTIN HEINRICH, NM
GEORGE MILLER, CA
EDWARD J. MARKEY, MA
PETER A. DEFazio, OR
MAURICE D. HINGHEY, NY
DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN, VI
DIANA DeGETTE, CO
RON KIND, WI
LOIS CAPPS, CA
JAY INSLEE, WA
JOE BACA, CA
STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN, SD
JOHN P. SARBANES, MD
CAROL SHEA-PORTER, NH
NIKI TSONGAS, MA
FRANK KRATOVIL, JR., MD
PEDRO R. PIERLUISI, PR

JAMES H. ZOIA
CHIEF OF STAFF

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

Opening Statement Of
Ranking Republican Rep. Doug Lamborn (CO)

BEFORE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
OVERSIGHT AND LEGISLATIVE HEARING

1324 Longworth House Office Building
July 23, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Oversight Hearing on:
"Federal Geospatial Data Management"

DOC HASTINGS, WA
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER
DON YOUNG, AK
ELTON GALLEGLY, CA
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TN
JEFF FLAKE, AZ
HENRY E. BROWN, JR., SC
CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, WA
LOUIE GOHMERT, TX
ROB BISHOP, UT
BILL SHUSTER, PA
DOUG LAMBORN, CO
ADRIAN SMITH, NE
ROBERT J. WITTMAN, VA
PAUL C. BROUN, GA
JOHN FLEMING, LA
MIKE COFFMAN, CO
JASON CHAFFETZ, UT
CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS, WY
TOM McCLINTOCK, CA
BILL CASSIDY, LA

TODD YOUNG
REPUBLICAN CHIEF OF STAFF

Thank you Mr. Chairman, I appreciate you holding this hearing today to examine the acquisition and management of our federal geospatial data. My state of Colorado is proud to be the home to many outstanding geospatial and mapping companies, including Digitalglobe, CompassData and others. We know the importance of this science and industry to America.

Today's hearing will hopefully provide us with answers regarding how much money the federal government spends on geospatial data, what, if any, improvements in coordination between federal agencies for data collection have been implemented recently, and how we can

ensure the federal government is getting the most out of our citizens tax dollars.

One of the key questions we will try to answer at this hearing is: “how can we improve the coordination between our federal agencies when collecting geospatial data.”

One of the key agency’s responsible for enforcing this coordination is the President’s Office of Management and Budget (OMB). I am certain that their testimony on this issue would be particularly enlightening.

Unfortunately, we will not be hearing from OMB today.

Although they were apparently invited to attend, OMB decided the issue and this committee not important enough to participate in the hearing. This unwillingness by OMB to come before this committee and help us answer the important questions facing federal geospatial data management will leave us with many unanswered questions regardless of how enlightening and informative our witnesses will be today.

The lack of OMB willingness to testify is particularly troublesome when you consider that the Obama-Pelosi non-stimulus stimulus bill authorizes billions of dollars for mapping and could end up wasting hundreds of millions of precious taxpayer dollars on duplicative and needless surveys.

On our federal lands in the west many of us use the motto, “take only memories, leave only footprints”, the mapping community likes to use the motto, “map once, use many times”.

Unfortunately, collectively federal agencies seem to use the motto “map many times, horde the data.” This mentality by our agencies wastes taxpayer dollars.

When the Department of Transportation spends money on maps which duplicates work done by the Department of Agriculture or Commerce that means less money for roads and infrastructure.

Eliminating this sort of duplication is exactly why we are here today, and again one of the main reasons OMB should be here with us as well.

I want to welcome the witnesses and I look forward to their testimony.

#