



October 21, 2013

The Honorable Don Young
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Representative Young:

MAPPS, the association of private sector surveying, mapping and geospatial firms, strongly supports your amendment on surveying and mapping to H.R. 3080, the "Water Resources Reform & Development Act (WRRDA) of 2013."

Your amendment requires the U.S. Corps of Engineers (USACE) to contract with private sector surveying and mapping firms, wherever practical, in the performance of surveying and mapping services and activities for Corps projects. The amendment also requires the Secretary to issue agency guidance to encourage use of the private sector for surveying and mapping services, and requires a process to provide oversight of the performance of compliance with the guidance.

This allows USACE to continue to manage the mapping and surveying program for WRRDA-related projects, but USACE will rely on the private sector to perform the mapping and surveying services and activities that are commercially available to the maximum extent practical.

Surveying and mapping have historically been considered "commercial" activities. There is a vast and broad private sector of firms that engage in our free enterprise system providing services to government agencies, individuals, and other businesses. These firms, now more commonly known as being in the "geospatial" profession, represent one of the fastest growth sectors of our economy, in terms of job creation, according to the Department of Labor.

We commend you for your amendment and urge the House to adopt it.

Sincerely,

John Byrd
Government Affairs Manager

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