



ACSM

government affairs update



April 2012 ACSM/NSPS Government Affairs Update

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LightSquared Update --- There is very little happening with our LightSquared issue these days. However, that does not mean we can take our eyes off the issue. The FCC is currently reviewing the thousands of comments submitted by various stakeholder groups and their members, and should issue a final ruling on LightSquared soon.

The Federal government put a lot of the LightSquared news on this very useful website: <http://www.gps.gov/spectrum/lightquared/>. We will continue to monitor the issue and will keep ACSM/NSPS members informed as the issue progresses.

COFPAES Federal Market Conference --- COFPAES staff met recently to discuss dates for the COFPAES Spring Meeting, and the Fall Meeting and Federal Market Conference. The COFPAES Spring Meeting will take place on June 7. Presentations by Federal agency officials on A/E topics will happen in the morning, and the Delegate meeting will take place in the afternoon.

The COFPAES Fall Meeting and Federal Market Conference will take place on October 10 and 11. The COFPAES Delegate meeting will happen in the afternoon of October 10. The Federal Market Conference will happen all day on October 11. The dates and the agenda for all meetings need to be finalized. Look for more information about these very important meetings in upcoming government affairs updates.

Map It Once, Use It Many Times Act Introduced --- A very pro geospatial piece of legislation was introduced by Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO) on March 21. The 'Map It Once, Use It Many Times Act' (H.R. 4233) brings Federal geospatial information and data gathering to the forefront. It establishes the National Geospatial Technology Administration, establishes a National Geospatial database, reorganizes geospatial and land management activities, sets standards for Federal geospatial data, protects geospatial data, and it regulates the acquisition of geospatial data from public and commercial sources, among other things.

It also sets up a National Geospatial Policy Commission that will include a number of representatives of Federal agencies and 11 citizens "with experience in geospatial activities appointed by the President", including 2 state government employees, 2 regional or local government employees, 1 employed in tribal government, 1 employed by a nonprofit organization, 1 employed by a university and 4 employed by private geospatial firms.

It also has language requiring contractor performance of Federal geospatial activities and the Federal use of Private Geospatial Firms.

We met recently with the House Natural Resources Committee staff to discuss our concern about certain language in the legislation pertaining to membership on the National Geospatial Policy Commission (we are asking for more representatives from nonprofit organizations) and language in Section 402 of the bill that limits geospatial association participation to association composed "exclusively" of geospatial firms. This language would exclude participation by ACSM and NSPS.

A hearing will be held on this legislation on May 5, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. We are working with Rep. Lamborn and the Natural Resources Committee to provide live testimony at the hearing; we also prepared and submitted written testimony for the hearing.

We are working to find co-sponsors for the legislation in the House of Representatives and we are working to find a Senator to introduce a similar bill in the Senate.

If you are interested in learning more about this bill, go to <http://thomas.loc.gov> and type in 'H.R. 4233' in the bill search section.

FEMA Floodmap/RiskMAP News --- we met recently with FEMA representatives to get an update of the progress of FEMA's Floodmap and RiskMAP programs. The Floodmap modernization program is winding down with 93% of the country with new effective or preliminary-dated DFIRMs. FEMA is moving into the RiskMAP phase of the program which has goals of (1) delivering high quality data, (2) increasing awareness of flood risk, and (3) promoting community mitigation action. FEMA was concerned, however about how much they will be able to achieve in the coming years. The President's FY 2013 budget calls for only \$89 million for the RiskMap program. This is a sharp decrease from the \$200 million that went into the yearly floodmap modernization program. As a result, mapping of levees and coastal mapping projects have either slowed down or have been put on hold.

FEMA staff also discussed the move from paper maps to all digital floodmaps. FEMA has eliminated 95% of paper flood map distribution and transitioned from the paper map printing process to an all digital mapping inventory. FEMA has a goal of the elimination of manual cartographic production of flood maps beginning in about 18 months

FEMA staff also discussed the proposed RiskMAP Advisory Committee. An advisory committee is required by House Report 112-91, which accompanies the Fiscal Year 2012 DHS Appropriations Act (P.L. 112-74). The Risk MAP Advisory Committee shall advise FEMA on RiskMAP implementation, including, but not limited to: (1) flood risk assessment and communication, (2) national digital elevation data acquisition, (3) database generated, paperless map display, (4) data standards, models and methodologies and (5) cooperative funding strategies. Both the House of Representatives and the Senate recommended that a member of a recognized professional surveying association, as well as a member of a recognized professional mapping association be included as members of the Risk Map Advisory Committee. ACSM and NSPS voiced our support of this plan and our intent to help move this forward through participation on the Advisory Committee.

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