



Monday 16 September 2019

Congressman Raul Grijalva, Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Congressman Rob Bishop, Ranking Member
House Natural Resources Committee
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Sirs,

State geological surveys across the nation are charged with the study and wise stewardship of each state's energy, mineral, and water resources and their byproducts. In addition, state surveys focus on geologic hazards to help mitigate their effects, and commonly maintain large repositories in the form of paper maps, logs, and photographs, and physical samples such as a rock and unconsolidated cores and hand samples. The relative emphasis put on these activities and collections depends on the state's geology, business and government needs, and available funding.

Common to all of these activities is the development of geologically-focused maps through rigorous field and laboratory analyses. Such activities require the assembly of large data sets from new field collecting, drilling, and remote sensing, or from in-house data and sample repositories. All these activities are time-consuming and expensive. Moreover, state surveys are being asked to map at resolutions not considered feasible one generation of geologist ago.

Fortunately, the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program and the National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Programs administered by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Association of American State Geologists are available to support vital geologic mapping and sample and data curation. In the state of Indiana, these two programs support a significant portion of our mapping efforts. Although not considered a hazard-prone state, our limestone bedrock is riddled with karst. As recent as this past spring a sinkhole opened in Interstate 265, and subsidence over shallow underground mine workings is a prolonged hazard. It is through geologic mapping that these hazards and others such as earthquake- and landslide-prone areas are identified and studied.

I encourage you to continue and expand support for the federally assisted mapping and data preservation efforts as basic activities towards the nation's resource sustainability and disaster resilience.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Todd Alan Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Director and State Geologist