

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

May 17, 2023

The Honorable Dave Applegate
Director, U.S.G.S. National Center
Room 7A102, Mail Stop 119
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192

Dear Dr. Applegate,

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources oversight hearing on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, to present testimony at the hearing entitled, *"Examining the President's FY 2024 Budget Request for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and the U.S. Geological Survey."*

Your testimony was extremely helpful in defining the Subcommittee's understanding of the issue and I appreciate the effort you took to prepare and present your testimony.

Please forward your responses to Lonnie Smith, Clerk of the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, at lonnie.smith@mail.house.gov by May 24, 2023. Your assistance in meeting this deadline is requested, as failure to meet it will be noted in the printed transcript.

Once again, thank you for your extensive effort in making this a valuable hearing.

Sincerely,



Pete Stauber
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Chairman

**Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Oversight Budget Hearing
1324 Longworth House Office Building
April 26, 2023
2:00 PM**

"Examining the President's FY 2024 Budget Request for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and the U.S. Geological Survey"

Questions from Rep. Lamborn for Dr. David Applegate, Director of U.S. Geologic Survey

1. It's my understanding that the USGS 3D Elevation Program, or 3DEP, has reached 90% completion. This is a significant accomplishment to date as I was one of over 35 bipartisan members to cosign the USGS 3DEP FY2024 funding letter to the Appropriations Committee. How does USGS plan to map the remaining 10% given most of that area is located in public lands states in the West? When will the USGS reach 100% nationwide completion for 3DEP?

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“Examining the President’s FY 2024 Budget Request for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and the U.S. Geological Survey”

Questions from Chairman Westerman for Dr. David Applegate, Director, U.S. Geological Survey

1. In creating the critical minerals list, your agency relies on the most recent data. But as we know, the world is constantly changing, and certain mineral supply chains can be greatly affected by the opening or closure of a single mine, not to mention wars or diplomatic breakdowns.
 - What kind of forecasting tools does your agency have to look ahead to current global events that may lead to imminent supply chain disruptions?
2. What are the selection criteria for grant recipients for the Climate Adaptation Science Centers program, and what is the methodology for creating such criteria?
 - I understand the directors of the Regional CASCs have a large amount of discretion in selecting projects for their program to fund. Is the selection criteria for the Regional CASCs publicly available and transparent to grant applications? Is this criteria uniform across the regions?
3. In the hearing, you told Congressman Collins that you would be willing to transmit additional data and calculations behind the decision to no longer consider the non-fuel uses of uranium sufficient to qualify it as a non-fuel mineral. Please transmit that data to the Committee.

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Questions from Rep. Gosar for Dr. David Applegate, Director, U.S. Geological Survey

1. At the Committee on Natural Resources hearing on April 19, 2023, I asked Secretary Haaland about copper and the official USGS critical minerals list. In response, she referenced the next update of list coming in 2025. However, in written correspondence to the Governors of Arizona, Idaho, and Utah last year, USGS committed to not waiting until the next 3-year update if the circumstances for copper changed. In fact, in Section 7002 of the Energy Act of 2020, Congress specifically gave the Department the authority to revisit the list sooner than every 3 years. Because USGS relied upon data from 2015-2018 for the 2022 list, the methodology on copper was already grossly out of date when the list was announced. The supply risk to copper has dramatically increased since that time.

- Given this, will you commit to revisiting the copper critical mineral score, using the same methodology and cutoff you used for the 2022 list, without waiting until 2025?