

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6970

To authorize a comprehensive program of nationwide access to Federal remote sensing data, to promote its use for education, workforce training and development, applied research, and to support Federal, State, tribal, and local government programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

Mr. REGULA (for himself and Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize a comprehensive program of nationwide access to Federal remote sensing data, to promote its use for education, workforce training and development, applied research, and to support Federal, State, tribal, and local government programs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “AmericaView Author-
5 ization Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) When Federal remote sensing data is avail-
2 able in a cost-effective and timely manner, State and
3 local governments and educational institutions are
4 able to develop new scientific, educational, and prac-
5 tical applications for the data and to adopt new tools
6 for applied research, education, and training, as evi-
7 denced by the success of the United States Geologi-
8 cal Survey pilot projects, OhioView and Gateway to
9 Earth.

10 (2) Increased access to remote sensing data
11 through State data archives benefits user commu-
12 nities that have traditionally struggled to afford the
13 data as follows:

14 (A) Educators train college students for
15 technology careers in remote sensing and train
16 teachers that remote sensing data can enhance
17 student learning in elementary and secondary
18 education.

19 (B) Historically black colleges and univer-
20 sities partner with StateView universities to en-
21 hance learning and training opportunities for
22 its students.

23 (C) Native Americans provide training and
24 education in the use and application of remote
25 sensing data for Native American students and

1 developing satellite-based applications for man-
2 aging reservation resources.

3 (3) Universities and State and local government
4 agencies use remote sensing data to support prac-
5 tical purposes, including—

6 (A) monitoring the health of national lands
7 and forests;

8 (B) monitoring crop progress, assessing
9 damage, and predicting crop yield;

10 (C) assisting with transportation and land-
11 use planning in the urban areas of the Nation;

12 (D) predicting and assisting with the man-
13 agement of human disease outbreaks; and

14 (E) assessing and managing natural disas-
15 ters.

16 (4) The AmericaView program is uniquely posi-
17 tioned to help each State address remote sensing
18 data infrastructure issues and to expand the use and
19 benefits of remote sensing data to each State.

20 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

21 As used in this Act:

22 (1) **AMERICAVIEW PROGRAM.**—The term
23 “AmericaView program” means the national
24 AmericaView program of the USGS, comprised of
25 the AmericaView project and AmericaView.

1 (2) AMERICAVIEW PROJECT.—The term
2 “AmericaView project” means the USGS data ar-
3 chive, development, maintenance, and product dis-
4 tribution program conducted at the EROS Data
5 Center.

6 (3) AMERICAVIEW.—The term “AmericaView”
7 means the national nonprofit collaboration of
8 StateView participants cooperating with the EROS
9 Data Center to achieve the purposes of the
10 AmericaView program.

11 (4) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term
12 “educational institution” means any public or pri-
13 vate elementary or secondary school, vocational
14 school, correspondence school, business school, col-
15 lege (including a junior college and teachers’ college)
16 normal school, professional school, university, or sci-
17 entific or technical institution, or any other institu-
18 tion that furnishes education.

19 (5) EROS DATA CENTER.—The term “EROS
20 Data Center” means the data management, systems
21 development, and research field center of the USGS.

22 (6) NATIONAL SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUC-
23 TURE.—The term “national spatial data infrastruc-
24 ture” means the technology, policies, standards, and
25 human resources necessary to acquire, process,

1 store, distribute, and improve utilization of
2 geospatial data for the Nation, established by Execu-
3 tive Order 12906, dated April 11, 1994 (“Coordi-
4 nating Geographic Data Acquisition and Access: The
5 National Spatial Data Infrastructure”).

6 (7) REMOTE SENSING DATA.—The term “re-
7 mote sensing data” means all information acquired
8 from above the surface of the Earth by satellite or
9 airplane.

10 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
12 rector of the USGS.

13 (9) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
14 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Com-
15 monwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands,
16 Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of
17 the Northern Mariana Islands.

18 (10) STATEVIEW.—The term “StateView”
19 means the AmericaView program of an individual
20 State, comprised of educational institutions and
21 State and local governments.

22 (11) USGS.—The term “USGS” means the
23 United States Geological Survey.

1 **SEC. 4. AMERICAVIEW PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall maintain a
3 nationwide program to advance the availability, timely dis-
4 tribution, and widespread use of remote sensing data and
5 technology in each State.

6 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the AmericaView
7 program are to—

8 (1) increase accessibility and expand the use of
9 remote sensing data in a standard, easy-to-use for-
10 mat to Federal, State, local and tribal governments,
11 communities, educational institutions, and the com-
12 mercial sector;

13 (2) assist each State in establishing the infra-
14 structure necessary to archive and distribute remote
15 sensing data;

16 (3) ensure that the National Satellite Land Re-
17 mote Sensing Data Archive of the USGS and State
18 remote sensing data archives support and comply
19 with other Federal programs related to national data
20 infrastructure, homeland security, and national de-
21 fense; and

22 (4) provide remote sensing data to the national
23 spatial data infrastructure.

24 (c) ACTIVITIES.—

25 (1) AMERICAVIEW PROJECT.—The Secretary,
26 through the AmericaView project, shall support the

1 remote sensing data research and educational pro-
2 grams of each State by cooperating with the States
3 to identify new remote sensing data needs and infra-
4 structure and to define, consolidate, and maintain
5 its data requirements.

6 (2) AMERICAVIEW.—The Secretary, through the
7 AmericaView program, shall maintain AmericaView
8 in each State to—

9 (A) share and cooperate in the develop-
10 ment of a freely and publicly accessible remote
11 sensing data archive and distribution infra-
12 structure;

13 (B) cooperate with the AmericaView
14 project to develop nationally consistent stand-
15 ards for remote sensing data archives in the
16 State;

17 (C) expand the number of remote sensing
18 data courses taught at educational institutions,
19 and provide training, remote sensing data, and
20 teaching tools to educators;

21 (D) expand remote sensing data research
22 at research educational institutions;

23 (E) expand the knowledge and use of re-
24 mote sensing data and data products in the

1 current workforce through outreach programs,
2 workshops, and other training opportunities;

3 (F) build partnerships with local govern-
4 ments to identify unique research and develop-
5 ment needs and foster remote sensing pilot
6 projects;

7 (G) promote cooperation and sharing of ex-
8 pertise about remote sensing data among the
9 participating State and within each partici-
10 pating State; and

11 (H) enable the States to provide remote
12 sensing data to the EROS Data Center.

13 (3) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall annually
14 award grants to sustain and develop StateView pro-
15 grams.

16 (4) FEDERAL PARTNER ADVISORY COM-
17 MITTEE.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
19 maintain an advisory committee to advise the
20 Director of the USGS about the AmericaView
21 program.

22 (B) MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT.—
23 The committee shall consist of a representative
24 from AmericaView, the USGS, the Department

1 of Agriculture, and a representative of such
2 other agencies as the Director may designate.

3 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
5 retary such sums as may be necessary to carry out this
6 Act for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2014.

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