

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3630

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 26 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 17), 2008

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To authorize a comprehensive program of nationwide access to Federal remote sensing data, to promote use of the program for education, workforce training and development, and 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 that—

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 the 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 because—

14 (A) educators—

15 (i) train college students for tech-
16 nology careers in remote sensing; and

17 (ii) train teachers that remote sensing
18 data can enhance student learning in ele-
19 mentary and secondary education;

20 (B) historically black colleges and univer-
21 sities partner with StateView universities to en-
22 hance learning and training opportunities for
23 students;

24 (C) Native Americans provide training and
25 education regarding—

1 (i) the use and application of remote
2 sensing data for Native American students;
3 and

4 (ii) developing satellite-based applica-
5 tions for managing reservation resources;

6 (3) universities and State and local government
7 agencies use remote sensing data to support prac-
8 tical purposes, including—

9 (A) monitoring the health of national land
10 and forests;

11 (B) monitoring crop progress, assessing
12 damage, and predicting crop yield;

13 (C) assisting with transportation and land-
14 use planning in the urban areas of the United
15 States;

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

18 (E) assessing and managing natural disas-
19 ters; and

20 (4) the AmericaView program is uniquely posi-
21 tioned—

22 (A) to help each State address remote
23 sensing data infrastructure issues; and

24 (B) to expand the use and benefits of re-
25 mote sensing data to each State.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) AMERICAVIEW PROGRAM.—The term
4 “AmericaView program” means the national
5 AmericaView program of the United States Geologi-
6 cal Survey established under section 4(a), comprised
7 of—

8 (A) the AmericaView project; and

9 (B) AmericaView.

10 (2) AMERICAVIEW PROJECT.—The term
11 “AmericaView project” means the United States Ge-
12 ological Survey data archive, development, mainte-
13 nance, and product distribution program conducted
14 at the EROS Data Center.

15 (3) AMERICAVIEW.—The term “AmericaView”
16 means the national nonprofit collaboration of
17 StateView participants cooperating with the EROS
18 Data Center to achieve the purposes of the
19 AmericaView program.

20 (4) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term
21 “educational institution” means any public or pri-
22 vate elementary or secondary school, vocational
23 school, correspondence school, business school, col-
24 lege (including a junior college or teachers’ college),
25 normal school, professional school, institution of
26 higher education, or scientific or technical institu-

1 tion, or any other institution that furnishes edu-
2 cation.

3 (5) EROS DATA CENTER.—The term “EROS
4 Data Center” means the data management, systems
5 development, and research field center of the United
6 States Geological Survey.

7 (6) NATIONAL SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUC-
8 TURE.—The term “National Spatial Data Infra-
9 structure” means the technology, policies, standards,
10 and human resources necessary to acquire, process,
11 store, distribute, and improve use of geospatial data
12 for the United States established by Executive Order
13 12906 (59 Fed. Reg. 17671 (April 11, 1994)).

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

18 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
19 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
20 rector of the United States Geological Survey.

21 (9) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
22 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Com-
23 monwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands,
24 Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of
25 the Northern Mariana Islands.

1 (10) STATEVIEW.—The term “StateView”
2 means the AmericaView program of a single State,
3 comprised of—

4 (A) educational institutions; and

5 (B) State and local governments.

6 **SEC. 4. AMERICAVIEW PROGRAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and
8 maintain a nationwide program, to be known as the
9 “AmericaView” program, to advance the availability, time-
10 ly distribution, and widespread use of remote sensing data
11 and technology in each State.

12 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the AmericaView
13 program are—

14 (1) to increase accessibility and expand the use
15 of remote sensing data in a standard, easy-to-use
16 format to—

17 (A) Federal, State, local, and tribal gov-
18 ernments;

19 (B) communities;

20 (C) educational institutions; and

21 (D) the commercial sector;

22 (2) to assist each State in establishing the in-
23 frastructure necessary to archive and distribute re-
24 mote sensing data;

1 (3) to ensure that the National Satellite Land
2 Remote Sensing Data Archive of the United States
3 Geological Survey and State remote sensing data ar-
4 chives support and comply with other Federal pro-
5 grams relating to national data infrastructure,
6 homeland security, and national defense; and

7 (4) to provide remote sensing data to the Na-
8 tional Spatial Data Infrastructure.

9 (c) ACTIVITIES.—

10 (1) AMERICAVIEW PROJECT.—The Secretary,
11 acting through the AmericaView project, shall sup-
12 port the remote sensing data research and edu-
13 cational programs of each State by cooperating with
14 the States—

15 (A) to identify new remote sensing data
16 needs and infrastructure; and

17 (B) to define, consolidate, and maintain
18 the data requirements of that infrastructure.

19 (2) AMERICAVIEW.—The Secretary, acting
20 through the AmericaView program, shall maintain
21 AmericaView in each State—

22 (A) to share and cooperate in the develop-
23 ment of a freely and publicly accessible remote
24 sensing data archive and distribution infra-
25 structure;

1 (B) to cooperate with the AmericaView
2 project to develop nationally consistent stand-
3 ards for remote sensing data archives in the
4 State;

5 (C) to expand the number of remote sens-
6 ing data courses taught at educational institu-
7 tions and provide training, remote sensing data,
8 and teaching tools to educators;

9 (D) to expand remote sensing data re-
10 search at research educational institutions;

11 (E) to expand the knowledge and use of re-
12 mote sensing data and data products in the
13 workforce through outreach programs, work-
14 shops, and other training opportunities;

15 (F) to build partnerships with local govern-
16 ments to identify unique research and develop-
17 ment needs and foster remote sensing pilot
18 projects;

19 (G) to promote cooperation and sharing of
20 expertise regarding remote sensing data among
21 the participating States and within each partici-
22 pating State; and

23 (H) to enable the States to provide remote
24 sensing data to the EROS Data Center.

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

4 (4) FEDERAL PARTNER ADVISORY COM-
5 MITTEE.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
7 maintain an advisory committee to advise the
8 Director of the United States Geological Survey
9 regarding the AmericaView program.

10 (B) MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT.—
11 The advisory committee shall consist of 1 rep-
12 resentative from each of—

13 (i) AmericaView;

14 (ii) the United States Geological Sur-
15 vey;

16 (iii) the Department of Agriculture;
17 and

18 (iv) such other Federal agencies as
19 the Director of the United States Geologi-
20 cal Survey may require.

21 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
23 retary such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act
24 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2014.

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