

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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April 2, 2004

The Honorable Charles H. Taylor  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies  
B-308 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies  
B-308 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Taylor and Ranking Member Dicks,

I am writing to request your support for the United States Geological Survey and the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program in the FY2005 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

I am requesting an increase of \$6.5 million for the Mineral Resources Program and \$1.9 million for the National Map over the President's FY2005 budget. The President's budget drastically alters the funding levels for the United States Geological Survey from FY2004 levels, and restoring funding for these programs will allow the agency to continue important mineral and mapping research. Research obtained from the Mineral Resources Program provides unbiased information about mineral potential, production, consumption, and environmental effects. The National Map is an integral tool used by a variety of agencies and organizations and incorporates detailed geospatial information from every state, county, and locality. I am in full support of these programs and will continue to seek sufficient funding for mineral commodity research and the development of a national map.

I also support the President's budget request for \$5 million to fund the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program. The Civil War Battlefield grant program provides funds for organizations to purchase land on sights of major engagements during the Civil War. I have personally taken trips to visit some of the sites protected by this grant program, and I have been very pleased to see our precious tax dollars spent in a way that promotes private property ownership and responsible land use. These sites are of historic

cultural importance to all Americans and should be preserved for future generations before they are developed and vanish completely.

Thank for you consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



John Culberson  
Member of Congress

*Thank you  
our chairman  
and our Dicks!*