

April 13, 2018

The Honorable Senator Hatch  
104 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hatch,

We very much appreciate and support your leadership in addressing the pressing need to provide timely access to needed geospatial data. These data are critical during emergencies as well as on a daily basis to improve the work of governments be they federal, state, local or tribal. They are also an important resource for the private sector. We are writing to express concern that language under active consideration we view as detrimental to public

Second, while we appreciate that the proposed amendment states: *"Any data acquired through commercial contracts will be made available to the public,"* this language also presents serious concerns regarding access to federally contracted data. By entering into a contract with an external party, federal agencies are potentially allowing these parties the ability to assert ownership of such data. One exemption of the Geospatial Act of 2017 states that propriety data acquired under license by the Federal Government shall not be included in the Geoplatform. A license is

