

18 August 2026

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
316 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski and Senator Hickenlooper:

On behalf of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and our global community of more than half a million Earth and space scientists and allies, I write to thank you for crafting and introducing S.4870, the Earth MRI Reauthorization Act, and to offer AGU's endorsement for this important bill.

Since its launch in 2019, the Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI) has filled a long-standing gap in the nation's geologic record, producing high-resolution mapping, airborne geophysical surveys, and geochemical data across areas of the country that had never been systematically characterized. That foundational data now underpins efforts across government, industry, and academia to locate and responsibly develop the mineral resources the U.S. economy and national security depend on.

The same geologic data does double duty for public safety. The mapping produced through Earth MRI improves our understanding of landslide susceptibility, fault locations, and other geologic hazards, giving states and communities better information to prepare for and respond to earthquakes, volcanic activity, and ground failure.

AGU has long supported sustained federal investment in the geologic mapping and mineral resource research that Earth MRI represents. This bipartisan bill to reauthorize the program will help to ensure the continuity of data vital to our security, safety, and economic health.

Thank you again for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you to advance this essential legislation and strengthen the nation's geologic mapping capabilities.

With best wishes,



Lexi Shultz
Vice President, Science Policy & Government Relations
American Geophysical Union