

August 17, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell,

On behalf of the undersigned professional geoscience societies, we would like to thank you for your support of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and to encourage your prompt consideration of Acting Director Suzette Kimball's confirmation as Director of the USGS.

The undersigned societies are united in our support for federal investment in geoscience research and education. We are committed to the continued success of the USGS and its ability to provide critical data and services that support responsible natural resource stewardship, improve resilience to natural and human-induced hazards, and contribute to the long-term health, security, and prosperity of the nation. These services suffer without the sustained, long-term leadership provided by a permanent Director.

Acting Director Kimball's leadership at the USGS has helped strengthen and guide the Survey's mission to provide reliable scientific information to the nation. Dr. Kimball's scientific expertise and extensive experience both in and out of the USGS make her an excellent candidate to lead the Survey. Dr. Kimball has held a number of positions within the USGS, including Associate Director for Geology, Director for the USGS's Eastern Region, and Deputy Director. Before her time at the USGS, Dr. Kimball worked at the National Park Service and also served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She has also been awarded the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive Leadership and the Secretary's Gold Award for Executive Leadership.

We appreciate your support for the U.S. Geological Survey and its many programs. We respectfully request that you prioritize the process of confirming Acting Director Kimball as Director of the USGS.

Sincerely,

American Association of Petroleum Geologists
American Geophysical Union
American Geosciences Institute
American Institute of Professional Geologists
National Ground Water Association
The Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration