

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2426

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## AN ACT

To encourage the development and integrated use by the public and private sectors of remote sensing and other geospatial information, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Remote Sensing Appli-  
3 cations Act of 2002”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds that—

6 (1) although urban land use planning, growth  
7 management, and other functions of State, local, re-  
8 gional, and tribal agencies are rightfully within their  
9 jurisdiction, the Federal Government can and should  
10 play an important role in the development and dem-  
11 onstration of innovative techniques to improve com-  
12 prehensive land use planning and growth manage-  
13 ment;

14 (2) the United States is making a major invest-  
15 ment in acquiring remote sensing and other  
16 geospatial information from both governmental and  
17 commercial sources;

18 (3) while much of the data is being acquired for  
19 scientific and national security purposes, it also can  
20 have important applications to help meet societal  
21 goals;

22 (4) it has already been demonstrated that  
23 Landsat data and other earth observation data can  
24 be of enormous assistance to Federal, State, local,  
25 regional, and tribal agencies for urban land use

1 planning, coastal zone management, natural and cul-  
2 tural resource management, and disaster monitoring;

3 (5) remote sensing, coupled with the emergence  
4 of geographic information systems and satellite-  
5 based positioning information, offers the capability  
6 of developing important new applications of inte-  
7 grated sets of geospatial information to address soci-  
8 etal needs;

9 (6) the full range of applications of remote  
10 sensing and other forms of geospatial information to  
11 meeting public sector requirements has not been  
12 adequately explored or exploited;

13 (7) the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of  
14 1992, Presidential Decision Directive 23 of 1994,  
15 and the Commercial Space Act of 1998 all support  
16 and promote the development of United States com-  
17 mercial remote sensing capabilities;

18 (8) many State, local, regional, tribal, and Fed-  
19 eral agencies are unaware of the utility of remote  
20 sensing and other geospatial information for meeting  
21 their needs, even when research has demonstrated  
22 the potential applications of that information;

23 (9) remote sensing and other geospatial infor-  
24 mation can be particularly useful to State, local, re-  
25 gional, and tribal agencies in the area of urban plan-

1       ning, especially in their efforts to plan for and man-  
2       age the impacts of growth, development, and sprawl,  
3       as well as in environmental impact and disaster re-  
4       lief planning and management;

5               (10) the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-  
6       ministration, in coordination with other agencies,  
7       can play a unique role in demonstrating how data  
8       acquired for scientific purposes, when combined with  
9       other data sources and processing capabilities, can  
10      be applied to assist State, local, regional, and tribal  
11      agencies and the private sector in decisionmaking in  
12      such areas as agriculture, weather forecasting, and  
13      forest management; and

14              (11) in addition, the National Aeronautics and  
15      Space Administration, in conjunction with other  
16      agencies, can play a unique role in stimulating the  
17      development of the remote sensing and other  
18      geospatial information sector through pilot projects  
19      to demonstrate the value of integrating govern-  
20      mental and commercial remote sensing data with ge-  
21      ographic information systems and satellite-based po-  
22      sitioning data to provide useful applications prod-  
23      ucts.

24   **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

25       In this Act—



1           (2) integrate multiple sources of geospatial in-  
2           formation, such as geographic information system  
3           data, satellite-provided positioning data, and re-  
4           motely sensed data, in innovative ways;

5           (3) include funds or in-kind contributions from  
6           non-Federal sources;

7           (4) involve the participation of commercial enti-  
8           ties that process raw or lightly processed data, often  
9           merging that data with other geospatial information,  
10          to create data products that have significant value  
11          added to the original data; and

12          (5) taken together demonstrate as diverse a set  
13          of public sector applications as possible.

14          (c) OPPORTUNITIES.—In carrying out this section,  
15          the Administrator shall seek opportunities to assist—

16                (1) in the development of commercial applica-  
17                tions potentially available from the remote sensing  
18                industry; and

19                (2) State, local, regional, and tribal agencies in  
20                applying remote sensing and other geospatial infor-  
21                mation technologies for growth management.

22          (d) DURATION.—Assistance for a pilot project under  
23          subsection (a) shall be provided for a period not to exceed  
24          3 years.

1 (e) REPORT.—Each recipient of a grant under sub-  
2 section (a) shall transmit a report to the Administrator  
3 on the results of the pilot project within 180 days of the  
4 completion of that project.

5 (f) WORKSHOP.—Each recipient of a grant under  
6 subsection (a) shall, not later than 180 days after the com-  
7 pletion of the pilot project, conduct at least one workshop  
8 for potential users to disseminate the lessons learned from  
9 the pilot project as widely as feasible.

10 (g) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator shall issue  
11 regulations establishing application, selection, and imple-  
12 mentation procedures for pilot projects, and guidelines for  
13 reports and workshops required by this section.

14 **SEC. 5. PROGRAM EVALUATION.**

15 (a) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Administrator  
16 shall establish an advisory committee, consisting of indi-  
17 viduals with appropriate expertise in State, local, regional,  
18 and tribal agencies, the university research community,  
19 and the remote sensing and other geospatial information  
20 industry, to monitor the program established under sec-  
21 tion 4. The advisory committee shall consult with the Fed-  
22 eral Geographic Data Committee and other appropriate  
23 industry representatives and organizations. Notwith-  
24 standing section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee  
25 Act, the advisory committee established under this sub-

1 section shall remain in effect until the termination of the  
2 program under section 4.

3 (b) **EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION.**—Not later than  
4 December 31, 2006, the Administrator shall transmit to  
5 the Congress an evaluation of the effectiveness of the pro-  
6 gram established under section 4 in exploring and pro-  
7 moting the integrated use of sources of remote sensing  
8 and other geospatial information to address State, local,  
9 regional, and tribal agency needs. Such evaluation shall  
10 have been conducted by an independent entity.

11 **SEC. 6. DATA AVAILABILITY.**

12 The Administrator shall ensure that the results of  
13 each of the pilot projects completed under section 4 shall  
14 be retrievable through an electronic, Internet-accessible  
15 database.

16 **SEC. 7. EDUCATION.**

17 The Administrator shall establish an educational out-  
18 reach program to increase awareness at institutions of  
19 higher education and State, local, regional, and tribal  
20 agencies of the potential applications of remote sensing  
21 and other geospatial information.

22 **SEC. 8. COST SENSITIVITY STUDY.**

23 The Administrator shall conduct a study of the effect  
24 of remote sensing imagery costs on potential State, local,  
25 regional, and tribal agency applications. The study shall

1 identify applications that are likely to be most affected by  
2 reductions in the cost of remote sensing imagery. Not later  
3 than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
4 the Administrator shall transmit to the Congress the re-  
5 sults of the study conducted under this section.

6 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Ad-  
8 ministrator \$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2003  
9 through 2007 to carry out this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives October 1,  
2002.

Attest:

*Clerk.*



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