



December 18, 2023

Representative Byron Donalds
United States House of Representatives
523 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515

Representative Troy Carter
United States House of Representatives
442 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Donalds and Carter,

On behalf of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) USA Council, I am writing to express our strong support for the GIS Emergency Response Technology Sustainment Act of 2023 (H.R. 6137). This crucial legislation represents a significant stride forward in enhancing and sustaining the capabilities of emergency response teams across the United States.

The National Alliance for Public Safety GIS Foundation's Search and Rescue Common Operating Platform (SARCOP) has been instrumental in revolutionizing how emergency management and response are conducted. By providing advanced GIS tools, technologies, and training, SARCOP enables first responders to act more swiftly, efficiently, and safely during times of crises. This system has been a game-changer in ensuring rapid, coordinated, and effective response efforts during natural disasters and other emergency situations.

Your bipartisan effort in introducing H.R. 6137 is commendable and reflects a profound understanding of the needs and challenges faced by emergency management professionals. By securing the sustainment of these critical GIS tools and technologies, this bill ensures that our nation's first responders are equipped with the most effective resources they need to save lives and protect communities.

The importance of GIS technology in emergency management cannot be overstated. It provides invaluable insights for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, and is fundamental to risk assessment and decision-making processes. The GIS Emergency Response Technology Sustainment Act of 2023 ensures that these vital resources continue to be available and are continually improved to meet the evolving demands of emergency management.

We at IAEM-USA believe that H.R. 6137 will significantly contribute to building a more resilient and prepared nation. We thank you, Representatives Donalds and Carter, for your leadership and commitment to enhancing public safety through this essential legislation.

We urge your colleagues in Congress to support this bill and look forward to its swift passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Kates", is written over a light blue circular background element that is part of the IAEM logo.

Justin Kates

President

International Association of Emergency Managers USA Council