



# AAG

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
*of* GEOGRAPHERS

## **AAG Announces Passage of the Geospatial Data Act**

October 3, 2018

WASHINGTON, DC – The AAG is pleased to announce that the Geospatial Data Act (GDA) has been passed today, absent damaging exclusionary procurement provisions that were previously in the bill. AAG has been monitoring and providing expertise to Congress regarding the GDA for several years, at the request of Congressional members.

After considering input from a variety of stakeholders, including the AAG, House and Senate committees finally settled on a streamlined bill stripped of the damaging provisions that would have limited federal procurement of geospatial data and services to a small segment of the geospatial community. AAG is proud to have taken the lead on helping to forge a balanced approach for the GDA, resulting in a bill which is inclusive of the broader geography and geospatial communities. We commend the bipartisan efforts of the bill's cosponsors, Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Mark Warner (D-VA) and Congressmen Bruce Westerman (R-AR) and Seth Moulton (D-MA), and look forward to following progress of its implementation.

This legislation will save U.S. taxpayers millions of dollars as it allows government agencies to better coordinate with one another, to prevent duplication, and to procure geospatial expertise, technology, services, and data from across the full range of the dynamic and rapidly growing U.S. geographic and geospatial community. The GDA also establishes procedures and guidance for two critical federal organizations, the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC), of which AAG Executive Director Doug Richardson is a member.

For more information on the GDA please contact Michelle Kinzer [mkinzer@aag.org](mailto:mkinzer@aag.org), or [click here](#).

### **About the American Association of Geographers**

The AAG is a nonprofit professional association representing 12,000 leading practitioners, researchers, and educators in geography and GIS. Founded in 1904 as an educational and scientific society, its members share interests in the theory, methods, and practice of geography, GIScience, and geographic education. For more information, visit the AAG website at [www.aag.org](http://www.aag.org), or contact Douglas Richardson at [drichardson@aag.org](mailto:drichardson@aag.org).