

## External Relations Committee Report 2018 – 2019 (through February)

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During 2018, the committee tracked items of legislation at the Federal and State levels. Several bills were introduced in Congress related to spatial data.

- S.103 / H.R.482 – Local Zoning Decisions Protection Act (Introduced) - This bill included language to prohibit use of federal funds to “design, build, maintain, utilize” geospatial information on “community racial disparities or access to affordable housing”. As of May 2019 this bill has not been reintroduced.
- Geospatial Data Act (became law)– This bill was introduced in several variants and at least three times. The final passing of the language was included in a “FAA Reauthorization Act” in October 2018. FGDC has recently published a summary of the Act at: <https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/gda-fact-sheet-may-2019.pdf>
- H.R.1305 – American Community Survey Act (Introduced) – A bill designed to make ACS questions “optional”. The impact to geospatial analysis would be further degradation of already scaled back data collected by census. This bill has been reintroduced in the current session as H.R. 2392 (2019)
- H.R.2318 (Introduced 2019) – a bill to “improve mapping” for the National Flood Insurance Program.
- S.933 BLUE GLOBE Act (Introduced 2019) – a bill to “improve data collection and monitoring of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts, and for other purposes.”
- H.R.318 – National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act (introduced 2019) – a bill seeking to reauthorize the “National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992.

The External Relations Committee was involved in several additional activities during the reporting period.

- AAG national meeting presence: Diana Sinton represented UCGIS at the annual AAG meeting (April 2019)
- RDA plenary meeting: Aaron Addison attended Research Data Alliance meetings including the geospatial group meetings.
- [2<sup>nd</sup> COGO Report Card on the National Spatial Data Infrastructure \(NSDI\)](#): UCGIS and Diana Sinton contributed to editing the document and promoting it across several communication channels.

There are many exciting opportunities for UCGIS to expand their reach and work collaboratively with other organizations. It is my sincere hope that UCGIS is able to make and develop connections with other like-minded research organizations and expand opportunities for the UCGIS community. Thank you to the Board and to Diana Sinton for supporting me as chair of the committee and I wish everyone a good summer meeting as well as successful geospatial travels ahead. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Aaron Addison