To authorize a comprehensive program of nationwide access to Federal remote sensing data, to promote use of the program for education, workforce training and development, and applied research, and to support Federal, State, tribal, and local government programs.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “AmericaView Authorization Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—
(1) when Federal remote sensing data is available in a cost-effective and timely manner, State and local governments and educational institutions are able to develop new scientific, educational, and practical applications for the data and to adopt new tools for applied research, education, and training, as evidenced by the success of the United States Geological Survey pilot projects OhioView and Gateway to the Earth;

(2) increased access to remote sensing data through State data archives benefits user communities that have traditionally struggled to afford the data because—

(A) educators—

(i) train college students for technology careers in remote sensing; and

(ii) train teachers that remote sensing data can enhance student learning in elementary and secondary education;

(B) historically black colleges and universities partner with StateView universities to enhance learning and training opportunities for students;

(C) Native Americans provide training and education regarding—
(i) the use and application of remote sensing data for Native American students; and
(ii) developing satellite-based applications for managing reservation resources;
(3) universities and State and local government agencies use remote sensing data to support practical purposes, including—
   (A) monitoring the health of national land and forests;
   (B) monitoring crop progress, assessing damage, and predicting crop yield;
   (C) assisting with transportation and land-use planning in the urban areas of the United States;
   (D) predicting and assisting with the management of human disease outbreaks; and
   (E) assessing and managing natural disasters; and
(4) the AmericaView program is uniquely positioned—
   (A) to help each State address remote sensing data infrastructure issues; and
   (B) to expand the use and benefits of remote sensing data to each State.
SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AmericaView Program.—The term “AmericaView program” means the national AmericaView program of the United States Geological Survey established under section 4(a), comprised of—

(A) the AmericaView project; and

(B) AmericaView.

(2) AmericaView Project.—The term “AmericaView project” means the United States Geological Survey data archive, development, maintenance, and product distribution program conducted at the EROS Data Center.

(3) AmericaView.—The term “AmericaView” means the national nonprofit collaboration of StateView participants cooperating with the EROS Data Center to achieve the purposes of the AmericaView program.

(4) Educational Institution.—The term “educational institution” means any public or private elementary or secondary school, vocational school, correspondence school, business school, college (including a junior college or teachers’ college), normal school, professional school, institution of higher education, or scientific or technical institu-
tion, or any other institution that furnishes edu-

cation.

(5) EROS DATA CENTER.—The term “EROS

data management, systems
development, and research field center of the United
States Geological Survey.

(6) NATIONAL SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUC-
ture.—The term “National Spatial Data Infra-
structure” means the technology, policies, standards,
and human resources necessary to acquire, process,
store, distribute, and improve use of geospatial data
for the United States established by Executive Order
12906 (59 Fed. Reg. 17671 (April 11, 1994)).

(7) REMOTE SENSING DATA.—The term “re-
 mote sensing data” means all information acquired
from above the surface of the Earth by satellite or
airplane.

(8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
rector of the United States Geological Survey.

(9) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Com-
monwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands,
Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of
the Northern Mariana Islands.
(10) **STATEVIEW.**—The term “StateView” means the AmericaView program of a single State, comprised of—

(A) educational institutions; and

(B) State and local governments.

**SEC. 4. AMERICAVIEW PROGRAM.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish and maintain a nationwide program, to be known as the “AmericaView” program, to advance the availability, timely distribution, and widespread use of remote sensing data and technology in each State.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the AmericaView program are—

(1) to increase accessibility and expand the use of remote sensing data in a standard, easy-to-use format to—

(A) Federal, State, local, and tribal governments;

(B) communities;

(C) educational institutions; and

(D) the commercial sector;

(2) to assist each State in establishing the infrastructure necessary to archive and distribute remote sensing data;
(3) to ensure that the National Satellite Land Remote Sensing Data Archive of the United States Geological Survey and State remote sensing data archives support and comply with other Federal programs relating to national data infrastructure, homeland security, and national defense; and

(4) to provide remote sensing data to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

e) Activities.—

(1) AmericaView Project.—The Secretary, acting through the AmericaView project, shall support the remote sensing data research and educational programs of each State by cooperating with the States—

(A) to identify new remote sensing data needs and infrastructure; and

(B) to define, consolidate, and maintain the data requirements of that infrastructure.

(2) AmericaView.—The Secretary, acting through the AmericaView program, shall maintain AmericaView in each State—

(A) to share and cooperate in the development of a freely and publicly accessible remote sensing data archive and distribution infrastructure;
(B) to cooperate with the AmericaView project to develop nationally consistent standards for remote sensing data archives in the State;

(C) to expand the number of remote sensing data courses taught at educational institutions and provide training, remote sensing data, and teaching tools to educators;

(D) to expand remote sensing data research at research educational institutions;

(E) to expand the knowledge and use of remote sensing data and data products in the workforce through outreach programs, workshops, and other training opportunities;

(F) to build partnerships with local governments to identify unique research and development needs and foster remote sensing pilot projects;

(G) to promote cooperation and sharing of expertise regarding remote sensing data among the participating States and within each participating State; and

(H) to enable the States to provide remote sensing data to the EROS Data Center.
(3) Grants.—The Secretary shall annually award grants to sustain and develop StateView programs.

(4) Federal partner advisory committee.—

(A) In general.—The Secretary shall maintain an advisory committee to advise the Director of the United States Geological Survey regarding the AmericaView program.

(B) Membership and appointment.—

The advisory committee shall consist of 1 representative from each of—

(i) AmericaView;

(ii) the United States Geological Survey;

(iii) the Department of Agriculture; and

(iv) such other Federal agencies as the Director of the United States Geological Survey may require.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2014.