H.R. 916/S. ____ - Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform (FLAIR) Act

- GAO has placed ‘Managing Federal Real Property’ in the High-Risk Series since 2003.
- GAO reports highlight the lack of a current, accurate inventory of Federal Real Property.
- On the other hand, the Federal government funds a variety of single-purpose databases.
- Technology, specifically geographic information systems (GIS), allows stewardship decisions based from one uniform, interoperable database.
- Since 1980, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has been calling for the development of a multipurpose cadastre, or land registry.
- In 2007, the NAS renewed this effort and recommended the idea of the FLAIR Act.
- The FLAIR Act authorizes the Department of the Interior to develop and manage a single multipurpose, uniform Federal GIS database to track and account for all Federal Real Property, as called for by GAO and recommended by the National Academy.
- The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to conduct an “inventory of inventories” to identify all inventory databases, whether efficient or inefficient.
- The efficient databases will be merged into a single multipurpose cadastre while the inefficient databases are repealed, thus preventing waste and duplication to continue.
- This Federal effort helps state and local agencies verify their ongoing efforts to identify what each level of government owns. This will also enable government at all levels to find missing property through a “gap analysis.”
- On February 28, 2013, Congressmen Ron Kind (D-WI) and Rob Bishop (R-UT) reintroduced the FLAIR Act/H.R. 916 in a bipartisan manner, now with 16 cosponsors. The bill has been reported favorably out of the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- In the 112th Congress, Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Mike Lee (R-UT) reintroduced the FLAIR Act/S. 1153. Senator Hatch will soon reintroduce companion legislation to H.R. 916. NSPS urges Senators to cosponsor companion legislation with Senator Hatch.
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