



United States Department of the Interior
U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, Virginia 20192

August 30, 2021

Robert Woodcock
Chair, Working Group on Information
Systems and Services
Committee on Earth Observation Satellites

Dear Mr. Woodcock:

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) would like to nominate Tom Sohre for leadership of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellite (CEOS) Working Group on Information Systems and Services (WGISS) beginning in November 2021.

USGS understands nomination would comprise a four-year commitment to support Mr. Sohre as WGISS Vice Chair for two years (commencing at the close of CEOS plenary in November 2021), followed by a further two years as WGISS Chair (concluding at CEOS Plenary 2025). As WGISS has a cross-cutting role within CEOS, we understand that this commitment would be to support participation in major relevant CEOS meetings (Strategic Implementation Team [SIT], SIT Technical Workshop, and the Plenary) and to the meetings of WGISS itself. During the two-year term as WGISS chair, USGS would commit to the provision of WGISS Secretariat functions.

Mr. Sohre has over 25 years of experience managing land remote sensing data systems in support of U.S. Federal agencies and the international science community. Mr. Sohre received the Department of Interior Meritorious Service Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to the USGS Climate and Land Use Change Program in leading the implementation, acceptance, and success of the Land Satellites Data System program.

During his USGS career, Mr. Sohre has been a key member of the USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science Architecture Study Team, the NASA Earth Science Data System Review Team, and the Earth Science Data System Working Group (ESDSWG).

USGS has a longstanding commitment to and participation in the WGISS, as well as extensive experience successfully chairing and substantively supporting other CEOS working groups. It is

our understanding that the nomination will be presented to CEOS Principals for decision at the 35th CEOS Plenary in November 2021.

We thank you for your leadership of the WGISS and reaffirm that we fully support Mr. Sohre as the nominee for WGISS Vice Chair and subsequent Chair.

Sincerely,

Timothy Stryker
USGS CEOS Principal

cc: Karen St. Germain, CEOS Chair
Alex Held, CEOS SIT Co-Chair
Adam Lewis, CEOS SIT Co-Chair
Marie-Claire Greening, CEOS Executive Officer