



February 6, 2026

Subject: Endorsement of an Independent Satellite Mission

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of OpenStreetMap US, I am pleased to express our strong endorsement for an independent, high resolution satellite mission. We believe that such an initiative has the potential to transform crisis response, early warning systems, and humanitarian aid by leveraging Earth observation technology to deliver timely, open data to those who need it most. We also know that projects like OpenStreetMap rely heavily on high quality, reliable, and accessible satellite imagery.

The ability to monitor climate-driven disasters, population displacement, food insecurity, environmental degradation, and human rights concerns from space has never been more essential. Yet today, access to such data remains uneven and prohibitively restricted for many of the organizations and communities that need it most. A dedicated humanitarian satellite that is ethically governed and designed around global public-good principles could close these critical gaps and dramatically expand the impact of geospatial information in vulnerable regions.

As an organization committed to reliable access to open data and a nonprofit dedicated to supporting OpenStreetMap, we recognize the urgent need for reliable, real-time geospatial data in decision-making processes to address humanity's greatest challenges. We look forward to engaging with this effort and contributing our expertise where possible. We urge other stakeholders to support this initiative and explore collaborative opportunities to bring this vision to life.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further discussions on how we can contribute to this important study.

Sincerely,

Maggie Cawley
Executive Director
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