

EARTH RESOURCES OBSERVATION SYSTEMS DATA CENTER CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

SENATOR TIM JOHNSON: “Mr. President, it is with great honor that I rise today to congratulate the Earth Resources Observation Systems, EROS Data Center in Sioux Falls, SD, which will hold its 30th anniversary celebration on Saturday, September 20, 2003. Opened in the early seventies, the EROS Data Center was staffed by only a handful of people and the largest mainframe computer in the State of South Dakota. Thirty years later, the EROS Data Center has grown to an organization with over 600 employees and they are responsible for supplying data to a worldwide community of users. Scholars, engineers, and land managers use their data to study a growing list of environmental issues such as resource development, global change, and land use planning. In addition to maintaining Earth science data, EROS scientists are working constantly to discover new ways to utilize this information. ...”

“Within the EROS Data Center lies a computer room that was associated with NASA's Earth Science Enterprise initiative. ... A major part of NASA's Earth Science Enterprise initiative is the Earth observing system, which will collect data required to measure changes in the Earth System. Beginning in 1999, and running for at least the next 15 years, the EOS will collect data through a series of satellites and field experiments to observe the Earth. In addition, since 1991, the EROS Data Center has supported the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Resources Information Database making environmental data available to developing countries.”

“While the EROS Data Center's mission has changed and grown over the years, its original mission, which was to receive, process, and distribute data collected and transmitted, still holds true. It is my belief that the center will keep on growing and continue to make a large impact within the Department of the Interior. As a small state, South Dakota can be extremely proud of the impact such a center has, not only on the State, but also on the United States and other nations. I am proud to have this opportunity to honor the EROS Data Center for its 30 years of outstanding service. It is an honor for me to share with my colleagues the exemplary leadership and strong commitment to data management and research the EROS Data Center has provided. I strongly commend their years of hard work and dedication, and I am very pleased that their substantial efforts are being publicly honored and celebrated.”