United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
National Center for Earth Resources Observation and Science
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57198

In Reply Refer To:
DO 4-4

April 3, 2013

Honorable Tim Johnson
5015 S. Bur Oak Place
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57108

Dear Senator Johnson:

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) formal transfer of the Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM) to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center for operational execution, at which time LDCM will become Landsat 8. In addition, EROS will be recognizing its 40th Anniversary (1973 to 2013) as part of this important achievement.

This special event is scheduled for Thursday, May 30, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at the USGS EROS Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. This will be a proud moment for South Dakota and the EROS Center as the 40-year legacy of service to society will be extended well into the future.

Key NASA and USGS personnel, along with contract support staff, will conduct the post launch assessment and mission transfer reviews at the EROS facilities in the days prior to this event.

The Landsat Program is a joint initiative between the USGS and NASA. LDCM is the eighth satellite in the Landsat series. Since the launch of Landsat 1 in 1972, information from Landsat satellites has become an integral part of many operational land management activities. This remarkable series of satellites provides key land change monitoring and prediction information to resource managers and decision makers about the Earth's landscape and its resources.

Your presence will significantly enhance the event, and we look forward to your participation. Please contact my office at fkelly@usgs.gov or 605-594-6123, at your earliest convenience regarding participation so we can plan accordingly with our NASA partners.

Sincerely,

Dr. Frank P. Kelly
Director, USGS EROS