Saving Lives and Saving Money
An Urgent Call to Build the National Spatial Data Infrastructure in Support of Public Safety

A Declaration of Interdependence

On a daily basis **state and local governments** are engaged in activities that save lives, protect property and guarantee the safety of more than 284 million Americans. But they do so without the benefit of key data, tools and standards that can ensure improved safety for first responders and citizens alike. Spatial data (information linked to an electronic map) and associated technologies significantly increase emergency response effectiveness and efficiency. They also enhance hazard mitigation, and provide for non-emergency applications that will pay for themselves many times over. At all levels of government, for a multitude of reasons, this country must have a comprehensive National Spatial Data Infrastructure to support Public Safety and many other purposes.

National development of timely, accurate and consistent spatial data will significantly enhance government lifesaving operations and countless other government services. While a large number of local governments already use spatial technologies, many cannot reap the full benefits, because there are gaps and inconsistencies in available data, or they rely on partners that cannot afford the technology. Spatial data must be created through national initiatives to ensure that they are available to all who require their use for lifesaving and public safety applications.

Every day, police officers are dispatched countless times to stop crimes in progress and to assist citizens in need of help. Spatial data applications such as "Comstat" in New York City allow police managers to analyze crime patterns and the tactics of their departments. These tools are effective in reducing violent crime and have contributed to a 68% reduction in New York City's annual murder rate from more than 2,000 ten years ago, to less than 650 today. Firefighters and Emergency Medical Service personnel work around the clock to put out fires and to respond to the health emergencies of individual citizens. State and local Departments of Health are engaged in daily operations to identify, track and mitigate life-threatening diseases. Departments of Transportation respond to accidents, keep roads safe, and analyze accident patterns to develop strategies that reduce injury and death.

All of these operations have two things in common. They are responsible for saving lives each and every day, and they rely upon information resources that have a spatial or geographic context that is critical to their success. The most critical National Spatial Data Infrastructure elements for Public Safety are:

- Digital orthoimagery (map-accurate aerial photography) at resolutions that are appropriate for every location to clearly show significant features.
- Accurate and consistent street and highway centerlines with street names and addresses affixed to them.
- Parcel boundaries, and for urban areas, building footprints with unique identifiers and basic characteristics.
- Significant natural features, including topography and vulnerable areas.
- Critical infrastructure elements such as aquifers, water distribution systems, wastewater treatment plants, bridges, tunnels, gas mains, power plants, geodetic control, telecommunication hubs, electric transmission lines, and places of public assembly.
- Locations of hazardous materials storage and other dangerous conditions or facilities.

When combined with such existing technologies as Geographic Information Systems, computer-aided dispatch systems, routing software, the Global Positioning System, Automated Vehicle Location, remote sensing and others, these data create the foundation for a modern public safety information infrastructure. During major emergencies such as terrorist attack, flood, fire, earthquake or hurricane, they can

immediately be used to support the efforts of first responders. They also support hazard mitigation operations such as the tracking of potential terrorists and environmental monitoring to prevent emergencies from happening in the first place.

Lifesaving operations extend beyond the borders of local jurisdictions and also beyond state and regional boundaries. Therefore, it is essential that spatial data be built to comprehensive, consistent and nationally agreed upon standards. Because of the detailed and local nature of the data, and because they will be used every single day by local public safety personnel, they need to be built and maintained in cooperation with state and local jurisdictions.

Emergencies strike urban centers and remote locations alike, without regard for the local residents who are injured or killed, and suffer financial losses. The first responders in these communities put their lives on the line while serving others. By the time significant state and Federal relief arrives, most of the fatalities and serious injuries have already been sustained at the local level. It is therefore essential that local public safety personnel have routine access to these public safety data and be thoroughly familiar with their uses. National Homeland Security and emergency management operations must use these same data so that Federal support and response efforts can be quickly and easily integrated with efforts at local and State levels.

Creation and deployment of the Public Safety components of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure will have many additional benefits. Local and state governments can use the same data to provide a foundation for countless non-emergency operations and applications, including e-government initiatives, economic development, waste removal, street cleaning, code enforcement, environmental protection, growth planning, construction permitting, inspections, capital construction and human services. These applications of spatial data are known to increase workforce productivity, streamline business processes, save money and improve services delivered to the public. Nationally, the aggregations of standards-based spatial data can lead to the creation of a National Map that gives America's citizens vital information for their businesses and day-to-day lives. The investment criteria for spatial data are routinely satisfied for non-emergency applications. Given the more urgent need to be better prepared for protecting our citizens in the post 9/11 world, the benefit of investments in spatial data created for public safety will extend to non-emergency applications and will pay for themselves many times over.

To take advantage of this life-saving and money-saving technology, which is currently available and should already be in the hands of every government agency across the nation, we must complete the job of comprehensively building a public safety oriented and spatially enabled data network. The creation of the Public Safety components of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure is essential now, before it is required to respond to a catastrophe, and before someone asks why it wasn't available when it was truly needed.

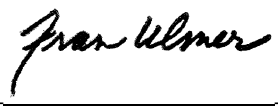
For these reasons the following undersigned organizations ask the Congress of the United States to create and enact omnibus legislation that will direct a coordinated national effort to fund production, maintenance and appropriate access of these data at State and local levels.

Alan Leidner, Director
New York City GIS Utility

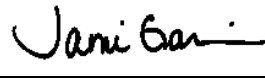
Rick Miller, President
National States Geographic Information Council

See following pages for additional signatures

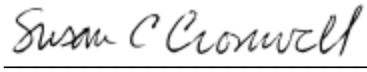
STATE GIS COUNCILS



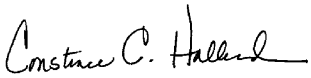
9/24/02
Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer, Chair — Date
Alaska Geographic Information Advisory Committee
Telecommunications Advisory Council



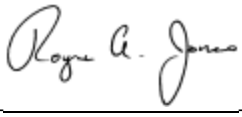
11/14/02
Jami Garrison, President — Date
Arizona Geographic Information Council



9/17/02
Susan Cromwell, Chair — Date
Arkansas State Land Information Board

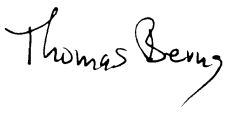


10/4/02
Constance C. Holland, Chairperson — Date
Delaware Spatial Data I-Team



9/20/02
Royce A. Jones, President — Date
Hawaii Geographic Information Coordinating Council

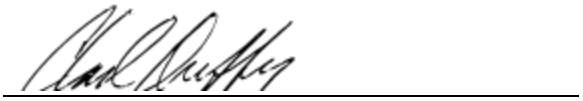
2/6/03
Jonathan Perry, Chairman — Date
Idaho Geospatial Committee



10/7/02
Representative Tom Berns, Co-chair — Date
Illinois Geographic Information Council (ILGIC)

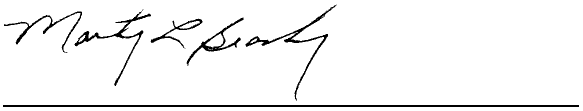
3/31/03
Jill Saligoe-Simmel, Chair — Date
Indiana Geographic Information Council

10/18/02
Kevin Kane, Chair — Date
Iowa Geographic Information Council (IGIC)

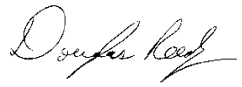


11/22/02
Clark Duffy, Chairperson — Date
Kansas Geographic Information Systems Policy Board

9/19/02
John Penfield, Chair — Date
Kentucky Geographic Information Advisory Council

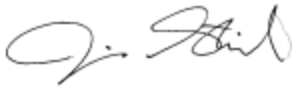


11/21/02
Marty L. Beasley, LGISC Chair — Date
Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

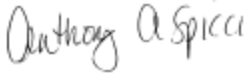


9/18/02
Douglas Reedy, Chair — Date
Maryland State Geographic Information Committee

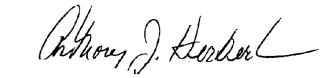
9/18/02
Larry Charboneau, Chair — Date
Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information



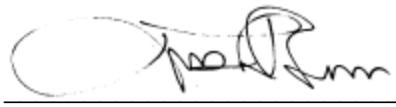
10/23/02
Jim Steil, Chair — Date
Mississippi Automated Resource Information System (MARIS)



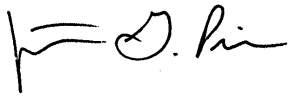
9/19/02
Anthony A. Spicci, Chair — Date
Missouri GIS Advisory Committee



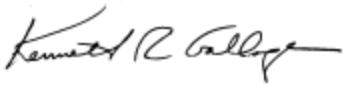
Anthony J. Herbert, Chair — 12/19/02
Montana Geographic Information Council — Date



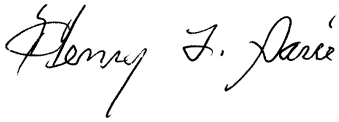
James L. Brown, State Surveyor and Chair — 11/7/02
Nebraska GIS Steering Committee — Date



Jonathan G. Price, Chairman — 1/22/03
Nevada State Mapping Advisory Committee — Date

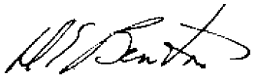


Kenneth R. Gallager, Chair — 3/19/03
New Hampshire GIS Advisory Committee — Date

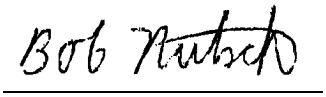


Henry L. Garie, Director, New Jersey Office of GIS; — 11/8/02
State Representative, New Jersey Geographic Information Council — Date

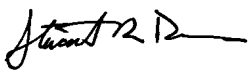
Bart Matthews, President — 3/12/03
New Mexico Geographic Information Council — Date



Dempsey Benton, chair — 11/22/02
North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council — Date



Bob Nutsch, GIS Coordinator — 2/26/03
North Dakota GIS Technical Committee — Date



9/18/02

Stuart R. Davis, Chair — Date
Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program (OGRIP) Council

4/15/03

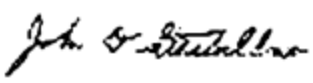
Mike Sharp, Director Information Technology — Date
Oklahoma Conservation Commission

9/18/02

John Lattimer, CIO — Date
Chair, Oregon Geographic Information Council (OGIC)

10/24/02

Jay Parrish, Chairperson — Date
Pennsylvania Geographic Information Council (PAGIC)

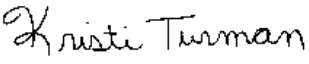


11/12/02

John D. Stachelhaus, Executive Secretary — Date
Rhode Island GIS Executive Committee

11/22/02

John L. Cooper, Secretary, — Date
South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks
Chairman, South Dakota GIS Steering Committee



11/22/02

Kristi Turman — Date
Chairperson, South Dakota Technical Advisory Group

1/9/03

David Speight, President — Date
Tennessee Geographic Information Council

A. Kim Ludeke, Ph.D. Chairman
Texas Geographic Information Council

3/5/03
Date

Dennis Goreham
Utah GIS Advisory Committee

10/17/02
Date

George Spencer, Chair
Washington Geographic Information Council

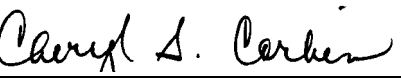
11/6/02
Date

Craig A. Neidig, WV GIS Coordinator
Chair, WV GIS Steering Committee

3/17/03
Date

Ted W. Koch, Chair
Wisconsin Land Information Board

11/21/03
Date



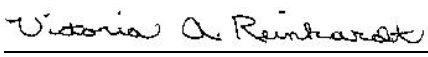
Cheryl Corbin, Chairperson
Wyoming Geographic Information Advisory Council

12/16/02
Date

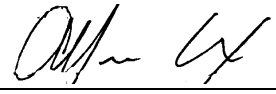
OTHER INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

11/14/02
Steven Cunningham, Chair — Date
Central Iowa Geographic Information Systems

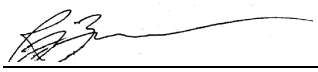
9/26/02
Timothy L. Haithcoat, Consortium Chair — Date
MidAmerica Geographic Information Systems Consortium, Ltd.



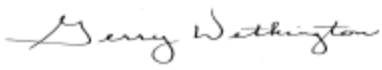
2/3/03
Victoria A. Reinhardt, Chair — Date
Minnesota MetroGIS Policy Board Chair



12/19/02
Allan Cox, Chair — Date
Montana Interagency GIS Technical Working Group



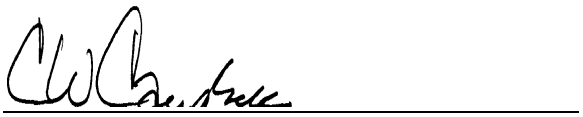
12/19/02
R. J. Zimmer, Chair — Date
Montana Local Government GIS Coalition



10/29/02
Gerry Wethington, President — Date
National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO)

Carolyn J. Merry, President — 02/20/03
University Consortium for Geographic Information Science — Date

12/31/02
James Geringer, Governor — Date
State of Wyoming



12/24/02

Bill Campbell, Chief Information Officer — Date
State of Wyoming

12/13/02

Richard C. Memmel, GIS Coordinator — Date
State of Wyoming, Department of Administration and Information
Information Technology Division