



National States Geographic Information Council

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January 19, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building – Room 528
2nd Street and Constitution Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20510
Sent via FAX at 202-224-7327

RE: National Geospatial Information System

Dear Senator Reid:

I am writing on behalf of the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC). NSGIC represents state governments and its mission is to enable effective and efficient government through the use of geospatial technologies.

NSGIC supports Congressional action to fund the activities listed in the document titled “A Proposal for National Economic Recovery – An Investment in Geospatial Information Infrastructure – Building a National GIS.” We support full funding for this proposal to be managed by the Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, for activities to design, field, and support the National Geospatial Information System. The Secretary of Interior should distribute those funds accordingly to the appropriate Federal agencies.

Federal efforts to build the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) have been inadequately funded. These technologies have tremendous potential to guide our Nation out of the current economic crisis. Development of the proposed data infrastructure and its future maintenance should be a high priority for Congress because of the positive economic impact on both the public and private sectors.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this effort or how the States manage their activities using geospatial technologies. I can be contacted at 501.682.2929, or by e-mail at learon.dalby@arkansas.gov.

Sincerely,

J. Learn Dalby, President
National States Geographic Information Council

cc: NSGIC Board of Directors