

August 24, 2006

Congressional Representative
Address

Dear _____:

Geospatial data and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are necessary tools today for local, state and tribal governments wishing to serve the public more efficiently and effectively. The cost of geospatial data acquisition is often a huge hurdle for agencies wishing to deploy GIS technological solutions. High-resolution and current aerial imagery data has become an essential commodity to for agencies using GIS, and while different levels of governments share the need for high-resolution aerial imagery they seldom share the cost. The National State Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) is leading an initiative called Imagery for the Nation that will coordinate and promote federal financial support for local governments, states and tribes in the acquisition of high-resolution digital aerial imagery. Imagery for the Nation has as a core value the ability of different levels o governments to come together and realize huge savings by taking advantage of economies of scale.

This initiative poses no additional cost to local, state or tribal agencies. If approved by the federal government, this initiative will provide all Montana agencies, as well as the general public, with basic high-resolution imagery at no cost every three to five years. Those agencies that already invest in aerial imagery stand to save money by having the ability to buy-up and more affordably acquire even higher resolution and color-infrared imagery. I respectfully ask for your support of the Imagery for the Nation initiative.

Sincerely,