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To: David C. Childs A-76comments/OMB/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: OMB Circular A-76

To the OMB regarding Circular A-76

My company is often in a position to work on mapping and aerial photography projects throughout the USA. When government agencies do the work that the private sector can do at a much lower cost and in less time, I really get discouraged as a small businessman. Here in Maine, the State Office of GIS continually attempts to provide mapping and GIS services that can be better delivered by specialists in the private sector, like us.

Fortunately the states newest funding for Maine's GeoLibrary will create mapping opportunities for the private sector since the expertise can only be found in the commercial sector.

I fully support the A-76 revision. It will open up jobs to all Americans, including small businesses like mine and workers will have new opportunities to seek work previously unavailable to the private sector. It will also help eliminate unfair government competition.

I like the provisions that eliminate Unfair Competition under Agency-to-Agency arrangements. I feel that this will eliminate the current practice that permits agencies to do work for other Federal agencies, and for state and local government.

"Geospatial activities" such as surveying, mapping, charting, geodesy, image acquisition, and geospatial information acquisition and production are all commercial activities. I think these should be activities in the private sector.

It would be important to me that the Circular indicate and clarify that any public-private standard competitions under A-76 for architecture, engineering, surveying and mapping services be in compliance with the Brooks Act's qualifications based selection (QBS) process, as required in 40 United State Code, section 541-544 and part 36 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).

Thank you for hearing my comments and I look forward to seeing the final product.

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