



STATE OF MONTANA
Department of Administration
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DIVISION



Brian Schweitzer
Governor

September 5, 2007

Stu Davis, President
National States Geographic Information Council
Enterprise Shared Services/Service Delivery Division
Ohio Office of Information Technology
77 South High Street, Room 1990
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Mr. Davis:

Geospatial data and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are necessary tools 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. Current high-resolution aerial imagery has become an essential commodity for agencies using GIS, and while different levels of governments share the need for high-resolution aerial imagery, they seldom share the cost. Montana appreciates the National States Geographic Information Council's effort leading the initiative to acquire Imagery for the Nation (IFTN). This program would coordinate and promote federal financial support for local governments, states and tribes for the acquisition of high-resolution digital aerial imagery. IFTN has as a core value the ability for different levels of governments to come together and realize huge savings by taking advantage of the economies of scale.

This program poses no additional cost to local, state or tribal agencies. If approved by the federal government, this initiative could provide all Montana agencies, as well as the general public, with basic high-resolution imagery at little or 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 acquire even higher resolution and color-infrared imagery. As Chair of the Montana Land Information Advisory Council, and as Montana's Geographic Information Officer, I want to reiterate both the Council's and my support for this most critical initiative.

Sincerely,

Robin H. Trenbeath
Montana Geographic Information Officer
Chair, Montana Land Information Advisory Council
Montana Department of Administration
Information Technology Services Division

