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June 12, 2007

Mr. Stuart R. Davis, President  
National States Geographic Information Council  
2105 Laurel Bush Road, Suite 200  
Bel Air, MD 21015

Dear Mr. Davis:

The New Hampshire GIS Advisory Committee strongly endorses the Imagery for the Nation initiative developed by the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC).

Ortho-corrected aerial imagery is now a fundamental component of the geospatial processes that serve the main missions of numerous federal, state, regional and municipal agencies, academic institutions, and private organizations within New Hampshire. Orthophotos are used in our state to support important and diverse activities, including natural disaster planning, mitigation and recovery; public safety; development and maintenance of road centerline data; land use/cover analyses and growth management; and forestry and other land-based economic activities. For New Hampshire as well as the nation, orthophotography has become a key tool for many organizations dedicated to ensuring public safety, protecting our environment, promoting economic opportunity, and improving the quality of life.

In New Hampshire's upcoming Strategic GIS Plan, up-to-date 1-foot orthoimagery is identified as one of the most critical data layers required by the statewide GIS. While some municipalities in the state are able to contract to obtain large-scale imagery, state and local interests understand that there is a need for statewide acquisition that avoids duplication of effort and provides broad access to all. New Hampshire supports the concept of shared, large-area imagery acquisition across multiple states as a way to ensure that updates are created in a timely manner and that funding for imagery is spent in the most efficient way possible.

The NH GIS Advisory Committee fully supports the efforts that are part of Imagery for the Nation and looks forward to seeing them come to fruition.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Gallagher  
Chair, New Hampshire GIS Advisory Committee

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