



September 21, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Davis:

The New Jersey Geospatial Forum (NJGF) is pleased to endorse the *Imagery for the Nation* initiative developed by the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC).

Digital orthoimagery is a core data set for nearly all users of geospatial technologies in New Jersey. Government agencies at all levels, private enterprises, non-government organizations, and educational institutions all rely on orthoimagery as a fundamental building block of their geographic information systems. In addition to direct uses such as situational awareness in emergency management agencies, orthoimagery is used in the creation and maintenance of many other framework data sets, such as road centerlines, railroads, land use/land cover, and tax parcels. Orthoimagery has become part of standard business practice for many public agencies and is indispensable to a variety of public and private initiatives.

Despite its importance, production of orthoimagery from state to state, and in some cases within states, is inconsistent. Product specifications, distribution policies, and update cycles vary. In some cases, uncertain funding leads to difficulties in planning work that is contingent on imagery updates. Further, with a variety of overlapping programs being run by different agencies, there are instances of costly redundancy in imagery collection. The Imagery for the Nation program would provide much-needed consistency and predictability to this important effort, and would most likely reduce overall costs to taxpayers.

The New Jersey Geospatial Forum is a coordinating body with representation from federal, state, regional, and local governments; private sector corporations, specifically including the community of licensed surveyors; nonprofit organizations; academic institutions; and individuals. By unanimous vote of the Executive Committee on September 7, 2007, the New Jersey Geospatial Forum enthusiastically endorses the Imagery for the Nation proposal.

Richard Rehmann  
Chair, NJGF Executive Committee