

February 19, 2004

Governor Tim Pawlenty
Office of the Governor
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Pawlenty:

At its January meeting, the Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information adopted a resolution endorsing Minnesota's participation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a Cooperating Technical Partner and recommending that you authorize the Department of Natural Resources as Minnesota's representative for this purpose. The resolution and supporting materials are attached.

Formal designation as a FEMA Cooperating Technical Partner offers several benefits to Minnesota, especially helping reduce the risks of incurring millions of dollars in flood damages. The need for better elevation data for floodplain management is clearly documented and investing to meet the need is supported by a broad range of stakeholders. The data is expensive to develop, but as a CTP, Minnesota can influence federal investments and improve the likelihood of receiving federal funds to support its own needs. Enclosures provide background material about the need and the Cooperating Technical Partner program.

The Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information was created to promote the effective use of GIS within Minnesota through coordination, standards development and open data exchange among Minnesota organizations. Its members represent state agencies, federal and local governments, higher education and the private sector.

On behalf of the Council, I encourage you to accept its recommendation. If your staff needs a more detailed briefing about the need or the Council's recommendation, they may contact me (612) 676-3950 or the Council's staff coordinator Sally Wakefield (651) 297-1255.

Sincerely,

Larry Charboneau, Council Chair