



January 30, 2006

Mr. Doug Bartels, GIS Coordinator
Richland County
413 3rd Avenue North
Wahpeton, ND 58075

Dear Mr. Bartels:

As the chair of the Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information (GCGI), I am pleased to provide you with this letter in support of your FGDC CAP grant application titled "Local Government Open Source Web Application Initiative". The GCGI was created in August 1991 to help coordinate geographic information system activities among all levels of government in Minnesota. The council's 18 members are appointed annually by the Commissioner of the Department of Administration and are drawn from state agencies, federal and local governments, higher education and the private sector.

The mission of the Council is to promote efficient and effective use of resources by providing leadership and direction in the development, management and use of geographic information in Minnesota. We see your project, in collaboration with several local government agencies in Minnesota, as promoting that mission. We also recognize that the results of the project will have far-reaching benefits to local government throughout Minnesota and beyond, and will encourage local governments to embrace national standards for framework data.

The Council recognizes that the CGISTC includes several Minnesota counties and cities, but is also pleased to endorse a project that promotes collaboration between local government agencies in North Dakota and Minnesota. This collaboration will allow participants and interested parties to work efficiently by eliminating redundant efforts. The resulting software will be available for any other local government agency since it will be built using an open source software model. This kind of activity fits well with the guiding principles of the GCGI to promote efficient investments in geographic information. A cost-effective option for deploying web applications will also encourage local governments to increase the amount of geographic information that is shared with the public, which is also aligned well with our guiding principles.

The Governor's Council supports the proposed project scope, is pleased to encourage this kind of collaborative activity, and looks forward to the positive impact it will have on the GIS community in Minnesota and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Gelbmann". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rick Gelbmann
Chair, Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information

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