



December 17, 2007

Ms. Desiree Santa
U.S. Geological Survey
Office of Acquisitions and Grants
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 205G
Reston, VA 20192

Dear Ms. Santa:

As the chair of the Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information, I urge you to approve the Minnesota Land Management Information Center's application for a 2008 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP) grant titled, *Minnesota Structures Collaborative – An Initiative to Support the National Map and NSDI*.

This project will result in continued refinement of structures data needed for homeland security and emergency management by emphasizing data stewardship and multi-level government partnerships. This is an important principle the Council supports and therefore recommends that the FGDC encourage it as well by awarding the grant for this project. The project's goals are also consistent with the mission of the Council's Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC), Minnesota's primary organization for promoting, coordinating, and standardizing GIS use across all levels of the state's Emergency Management community. Several EPC members will be actively involved in this project as volunteers.

The Council was established in 1991 by Executive Order to help coordinate geographic information system (GIS) activities among all levels of government in Minnesota. The Council's volunteer members represent 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.

Thank you for considering our request. Please contact me if you have any questions about our support for this important proposal.

Sincerely,

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