



February 21, 2007

Mr. Jeffrey Heegaard, Executive Director  
1000 Friends of Minnesota  
26 E. Exchange Street, Suite 317  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Mr. Heegaard,

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information (GCGI) to recognize 1000 Friends of Minnesota as an important contributor to the Council's coordination efforts. The Council's mission 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. Toward that end the council works to engage a variety of GIS professionals and user organizations.

1000 Friends has demonstrated its commitment to address the information needs of non-profit organizations by dedicating experienced and knowledgeable staff to participate at the council and committee levels. The GCGI supports the pioneering work of 1000 Friends to help rapidly growing communities with limited GIS expertise to understand and plan for the growth of their communities. Your involvement represents both an under-represented sector (non-profit) and emerging users – important contributors to the council's dialogue. These factors work to advance the council's guiding principles as listed below.

- Promote geographic information as a public resource that should be widely shared with and available to interested parties.
- Support the establishment and use of geographic data standards and guidelines to better exchange and share information resources.
- Promote the beneficial uses of geographic information in the development of policy and the management of public resources.

The council appreciates the efforts of 1000 Friends of Minnesota to advance GIS coordination in Minnesota and expects that 1000 Friends will work to serve as a liaison between the council and non-profit, land use planning organizations during its tenure on the council.

Sincerely,

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