

January 9, 2009

To Senators and Representatives of the United States of America

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, membership and constituencies of the Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA), I hereby extend our enthusiastic support for the National Economic Recovery Proposal entitled, "*An Investment in Geospatial Information Infrastructure: Building a National GIS.*"

This is a long overdue effort that requires appropriate and immediate attention, given our serious national economic situation and the declining state of our vital infrastructure assets.

GITA's members represent local, state and regional governments, utilities, telecommunications companies and other geospatially aware infrastructure oriented organizations in all 50 states. Our members and constituents are responsible for owning, operating, maintaining and protecting our Nation's key critical infrastructure assets – the natural and man-made attributes that influence our standard of living and impact our way of life.

GITA's members provide and ensure essential public services like reliable energy, clean water, transportation systems, underground damage prevention, and emergency services to protect our Nation's citizens from all forms of hazards – from threats and damage associated with natural occurrences, accidents, and acts of terrorism.

This is accomplished on a daily, year-round basis using geospatial technology, including GIS, GPS, Remote Sensing and related technologies. There is no tool that is better suited, nor more effective than geospatial technology for addressing our Nation's most pressing infrastructure-related problems.

A National GIS would provide enormous impetus for overcoming the obstacles commonly experienced at federal, state and local levels that inhibit effective collaboration among elements of the public and private sectors. The resultant positive impact upon the US economic recovery effort cannot be overstated.

We are at a critical juncture in addressing unprecedented challenges. A robust geospatial infrastructure is a lynchpin to achieving a physical infrastructure that will help keep our Nation globally competitive.

GITA unequivocally endorses *Building a National GIS* as an urgent major priority in order to maintain, improve and protect the infrastructure, stimulate job growth, and facilitate economic recovery.

We respectfully urge your support for this proposal. GITA stands ready to contribute to this historic effort.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert M. Samborski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent loop at the end of the name.

Robert M. Samborski
Executive Director