



To Senators and Representatives of the United States Congress

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the National Association of Counties (NACo), I offer our strong support for the National Economic Recovery Proposal entitled *An Investment in Geospatial Information Infrastructure: Building a National GIS*. This effort will enable America to build a strong national geographic information system (GIS) that will serve as a public resource for project planners to support transportation infrastructure, water resource management, alternative energy research, and project siting. It will also provide a foundation for monitoring the US economic recovery across our communities, allowing activities to get underway as soon as possible and leaving a valuable legacy for our future.

NACo represents the nation's 3,068 county governments in the United States. Counties administer public welfare programs, health care and hospital oversight, the legal and court system, law enforcement in unincorporated areas, the operation of county jails, and building and maintaining rural roads. In addition, counties are responsible for assessing real estate for taxation, collecting taxes, supervising elections, dispensing agricultural/horticultural advice, and keeping vital statistics and records. In recent years, counties have become major players in the provision of local or municipal-type services—fire protection, utilities, libraries, planning and zoning, and protective inspections—and regional or urban-type services—fire protection, sanitation, sewage and solid waste disposal, parks and recreation, natural resource conservation, mass transit and parking, housing and urban development, and airports. Therefore, having a national GIS infrastructure to support such service delivery is vital to our national interest.

In addition, counties have become major players in regional economic development, employing industry cluster policies and integrated workforce development programs that cross county lines. As such, a national GIS infrastructure can become a foundation for new generations of industries and technologies in the future.

NACo strongly endorses *Building a National GIS* as an urgent major priority to sustain, improve and protect the nation's infrastructure, stimulate job growth, and facilitate economic recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Larry E. Naake'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'L' and 'N'.

Larry E. Naake
Executive Director