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September 22, 2015

Mr. Everett Root, GISP
Office of Technology Partnerships
State of Michigan – DTMB
George W. Romney Bldg
111 South Capitol Ave
10th Floor
Lansing, MI 48933

Transmitted via E-Mail

Dear Mr. Root,

As the President of IMAGIN (Improving Michigan's Access to Geographic Information Networks), I would like to extend IMAGIN's support of the development of a State-Wide Orthoimagery and Geographic Data Exchange Program.

The creation of this program will enhance the efforts of the geospatial data communities at the local, county, regional, state, federal and even private levels. It will also encourage the collaborative efforts toward effective data and application development across multiple agencies.

For many years the State of Michigan and geospatial professionals have been discussing ways to collaborate and share resources specific to the GIS (Geographic Information System) community. Many efforts have been attempted with varying levels of success, including the current MiSAIL imagery program. Past programs have progressed imagery acquisition for the state and participating organizations, however they have fallen short on achieving complete and consistent coverage for the entire State of Michigan. Additionally, there has been an increased call for state-wide cadastral (parcel) data, which is currently developed at either the county or local municipality level. This cadastral data has traditionally been well protected by the data stewards under the Enhanced Access to Public Records Act (Act 462 of 1996). The results of these past programs have always run into roadblocks because of funding.

The development of a State-Wide Orthoimagery and Geographic Data Exchange Program would provide enormous benefits to all geospatial professionals working with imagery and geospatial data in the state. This program, leveraging data exchange instead of monetary exchanges, would provide an efficient data exchange method where local municipalities and counties would be provided orthoimagery in exchange for spatial data that would benefit the business practices of the State.

On behalf of IMAGIN's Board of Directors and the IMAGIN membership, IMAGIN supports the development and creation of the State-Wide Orthoimagery and Geographic Data Exchange Program.

Thomas Van Bruggen, IMAGIN President

Date