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Mr. David McCoy
State Budget Officer
Office of State Budget and Management
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Raleigh, North Carolina 27603-8005

Mr. Dan Gerlach
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Office of the Governor
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Gentlemen:

You have previously received information on the proposal for the development of a coordinated, comprehensive, accessible geographic information system (GIS) database that would serve federal, state, and local agencies responsible for economic development, transportation, and the conservation and protection of our cultural and natural resources. Senior executives from eleven federal and state agencies, formally known as the Interagency Leadership Team (ILT), have authored a plan to make their activities and programs more efficient and effective through the use of a comprehensive GIS database.


GIS is an important resource for all of our agencies, and we anticipate the results of the current NC House Bill 1473 "GIS Study." That bill underscores the need and potential for the many beneficial applications of this information. The ILT has numerous collaborative initiatives and objectives that involve GIS data. For example, additional funding for GIS would help advance a "pilot" project that will examine the use of GIS in the development of transportation projects, all of which require data on commercial, natural, cultural and human resources.


We, therefore, unanimously recommend that funding be included in the 2008-09 budget. That inclusion will allow the continued development and expansion of GIS as an indispensable decision support tool in North Carolina. Thank you for your consideration.

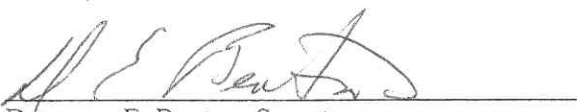
Sincerely,


Lyndo Tippett, Secretary
Department of Transportation


Jim Fain, Secretary
Department of Commerce


Libba Evans, Secretary
Department of Cultural Resources


Bill Ross, Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources


Dempsey E. Benton, Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services