



Association of American Geographers

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Executive Director

Douglas Richardson

January 13, 2009

Jack Dangermond
President
ESRI
380 New York Street
Redlands, CA 92373

Dear Mr. Dangermond:

I am writing on behalf of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) to provide our endorsement of the "GIS for the Nation" plan that you and Anne Hale Miglarese of Booz Allen Hamilton have proposed. We believe that the steps outlined in "GIS for the Nation" are essential for restoring the nation's economy to full strength, and for aiding its future growth by establishing a robust public foundation for public facilities management and technological innovation.

In addition to providing a needed and unified means for managing the thousands of infrastructure projects across the nation that will be part of the Stimulus Plan, as described in the proposal, the creation of a National GIS will immediately stimulate job creation, innovation, and education in the field of geospatial technology, which recently has been identified by the U.S. Department of Labor as one of the three most important emerging and evolving new science and technology fields. The U.S. has pioneered the development of the GIS, GPS, and related geospatial industries. The National GIS also would help assure a leading role for the U.S. in the future of this crucial technology field.

The AAG is the leading and largest association of professional geographers, with over 10,000 members. The AAG is actively involved in geographic research, education and workforce issues at the national level, and therefore it is our firm belief that the National GIS will form an essential component of the nation's economic stimulus, as well as for this key industry.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Douglas Richardson
Executive Director