

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

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Urging the United States Congress to pass legislation to fund the acquisition of high-resolution digital orthoimagery and digital elevation data for the entire state of Alaska.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS reliable, current, statewide base geographic information is essential for public safety and continued economic development of our resources and to increase the livability of our state; and

WHEREAS orthoimagery and elevation data are considered the foundation for the framework of base geographic data; and

WHEREAS Alaska does not have digital orthoimagery or accurate elevation data; and

WHEREAS Alaska's statewide base geographic information is very poor; United States Geological Survey (USGS) maps of Alaska are over 40 years old, lack statewide coverage, and do not meet National Map Accuracy Standards; and there is no existing or planned program to replace them; and

WHEREAS the current imagery of Alaska acquired through the Alaska High Altitude Aerial Photography Program is over 20 years old, not in digital form, and therefore not

available for modern technological use; and

WHEREAS leading state policymakers defined topographic and other basic mapping as the number one mapping need at the December 2000 meeting sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and

WHEREAS funding situations in federal and state agencies have not allowed Alaska to be a participant in the National Aerial Photography Program and the National Digital Orthophoto Program providing complete aerial photography and orthoimagery coverage for the lower 48 states on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS NASA's 2000 Shuttle Radar Topography Mission for producing elevation data for topographic mapping covered 80 percent of the world but less than 20 percent of Alaska because it did not map above 60 degrees North latitude; and

WHEREAS new orthoimagery and elevation data provide common data foundation layers that would show current conditions and trends on the Alaska landscape and are the layers from which many types of geographic information are extracted and to which many types are registered that will allow Alaska agencies, Native corporations, and private organizations to better use Geographic Information Systems technology to aid in responsible decision-making; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative prepared by the Alaska Geographic Data Committee outlines the need for high-resolution digital orthoimagery and digital elevation data for Alaska;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Congress of the United States to pass legislation to fund the acquisition of high-resolution digital orthoimagery and digital elevation data for the entire state of Alaska as outlined by the Alaska Geographic Data Committee.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Gale Norton, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Trent Lott, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.