

Antoine McCord  
Chief Information Officer  
Geospatial Management Office  
Department of Homeland Security

May 12, 2025

Dear Mr. McCord,

On behalf of the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), I write to express our deep gratitude for the continued support the DHS Geospatial Management Office (GMO) provides to states through their geospatial programs. The GMO's platforms and services—particularly GII, HIFLD, and the Common Operating Picture—have become indispensable tools for our homeland security and emergency management partners. Of even greater value to many States are the underlying GIS web services which are directly integrated with State GIS applications.

The role of the GMO only grows in importance as State and Local governments focus their efforts on improving data driven information sharing and preparedness in light of the White House's March 19<sup>th</sup> Executive Order entitled *'Improving Efficiency Through State and Local Preparedness'*. That this is a priority for all government was reinforced by the comments from Cameron Hamilton (Senior Official Acting in the Role of FEMA Administrator) to the National Emergency Management Association's April 15<sup>th</sup> conference in which he stated that, *"Our disaster survivors deserve a federated, interlocked resource network that really can provide everything that they need so that their resources and their requirements can be met."* And that, *"We are building systems now -- we started weeks ago -- that improve the ability to share information with our state and local partners and facilitate our survivors to gain access to the resources that they need – faster."*

A key to achieving that is the role that GIS plays in sharing information, especially as the overwhelming majority of state and local agencies use GIS for situational awareness and data analytics. That is the reason that DHS Science & Technology and FEMA chose to build their no cost toolkit, the Community Lifeline Status System (CLSS) now being adopted across the country by State and Local emergency management and other agencies, on a GIS platform.

### **A Concrete Success Story**

During the recent March flooding event, FEMA Region 10 GIS staff leveraged HIFLD data to help map critical infrastructure for the state of Oregon and its partners. They went above and beyond by connecting the Oregon Emergency Management team with behind-the-scenes feeds from the National Water Model and the River Forecast Center. Those real-time inundation



estimates enabled emergency managers to prioritize areas for damage assessments as part of the disaster declaration process. We commend our FEMA R10 GIS colleagues for their responsiveness and their willingness to integrate the data services Oregon shared directly into FEMA's systems—streamlining the joint Preliminary Damage Assessment effort and accelerating assistance to affected communities.

### **Voices from the States**

“The GII platform has been instrumental in our state’s ability to share data seamlessly across multiple agencies,”

—Daniel Stoelb, RAPTOR Manager, Oregon Dept. of Emergency Mgmt.,  
Co-chair, NSGIC Geospatial Preparedness Working Group

“DHS COP dashboards provide the strategic situational awareness critical to coordinating rapid response across jurisdictions,”

—Jason Ray, CIO, Florida Division of Emergency Management

These testimonials echo the experiences of NSGIC members nationwide: your team’s investments in shared operational data and real-time analytics directly support counter-terrorism, border security, critical infrastructure protection, and disaster response.

We look forward to strengthening our partnership with the GMO as you settle into your new role. Please let us know how NSGIC can assist in promoting and expanding use of GII, HIFLD, COP and geospatial web services among our state, local, tribal, and territorial network.

Thank you again for your exemplary leadership and for making geospatial collaboration a hallmark of the Homeland Security Enterprise.

Sincerely,



Kenneth A. Nelson, Kansas State Geospatial Information Officer  
President, National States Geographic Information Council

Cc: Matt Bourassa, Director, Geospatial Management Office, OCIO, DHS  
Gineane J. Goldsmith, Manager, Outreach and Engagement, DHS GMO