

July 7, 2026

Attn: Members of the Michigan Legislature;

On behalf of the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), I am writing in strong support Michigan Senate Bill 999 of 2026 to support the acquisition of high-resolution aerial imagery and remote sensing products by the Michigan Statewide Aerial Imagery and Lidar (MiSAIL) program within the Department of Technology, Management and Budget, and recommended by the members of the Michigan Remote Sensing Workgroup within the Michigan GIS Advisory Group.

SB 999 proposes an annual legislative apportionment of \$4 per recorded document through an amendment to the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, PA 236. These funds would enable MiSAIL to collect and host statewide aerial imagery and other remote sensing datasets on a more frequent schedule and at improved, consistent spatial resolutions. The funding would also cover the infrastructure needed to store and host this data, ensuring that it is publicly accessible and freely available for download.

Within NSGIC, we have seen from a national perspective where a consistently funded statewide aerial imagery program results in high-resolution Geographic Information Systems (GIS) products such as aerial imagery and lidar to provide the essential services expected by citizenry. This initiative would significantly strengthen the mapping capabilities related to public works projects, equalization and assessing, planning and zoning, economic development, emergency management and response, public health, addressing, road maintenance and more. At the same time, the funds gathered through the legislative funding initiative would reduce or eliminate the need for each individual local unit of government to raise money through public data sales to fund acquisition, maintenance and sharing.

With a strong, existing statewide imagery program, in MiSAIL, to manage the collection of the imagery, the funding would go directly to the acquisition of the higher-resolution data for all counties across the state so all citizens can benefit from the same public and private sector services that can be delivered via the availability of higher-resolution imagery. Studies on high-resolution imagery across many states have proven high return on investment from the funding.

The proposed initiative represents a forward-looking investment in data infrastructure that reduces the burden on local government without sacrificing the resources needed to support important services. NSGIC strongly urges the members of the Michigan Legislature to support the adoption of the proposed legislative apportionment.

Sincerely,

Mark Yacucci

Mark Yacucci, President

National States Geographic Information Council