RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A COMPREHENSIVE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Whereas, the State of North Carolina needs a Comprehensive Geographic Information System that provides reliable up-to-date, and complete data for collaborative and comprehensive planning efforts including transportation, land use, economic development, natural resource conservation and cultural resource protection planning; and,

Whereas, the data and information associated with State of North Carolina's current Geographic Information System (GIS) is either out of date or does not exist on a statewide level; and,

Whereas, The North Carolina Interagency Leadership Team from 10 State and Federal agencies has carefully reviewed the State's GIS needs, and has proposed a major initiative to create and update GIS data at an initial cost of $38.2 million and an annual maintenance cost of $4.7 million; and,

Whereas, the benefits to be realized from implementing this project include:

1. decreased cost for critical public infrastructure planning at the local, State and Federal levels;
2. improved decision-making through the availability of current and reliable data;
3. productivity gains through the use of GIS in collaborative and early planning efforts; and,

Whereas, the return on investment for the State of North Carolina is estimated to exceed the capital investment through employee productivity, reduction of errors, and more timely construction; and,

Whereas, up-to-date and regularly maintained GIS data layers can facilitate comprehensive and collaborative planning efforts across the State, including the delivery of transportation solutions in a timely manner while enhancing the natural and human environment and economic development potential in North Carolina; and,

Whereas, on April 25, 2006 the Secretaries of Transportation, Commerce, Cultural Resources and Environment and Natural Resources reviewed and endorsed the development of a shared, comprehensive, accessible GIS database for the State of North Carolina; and,

Whereas, the N.C. Board of Transportation has considered the GIS proposal, and, on June 1, 2006, endorsed this plan; and,

Whereas, the N.C. Geographic Information Coordinating Council, the Board created by the General Assembly to guide the development of Geographic Information data in North Carolina, reviewed this proposal and on May 17, 2006, gave its endorsement to this plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY Environmental Defense AT ITS MEETING ON January 8, 2007 THAT:

1. The Governor and General Assembly are requested to provide additional funding to develop and maintain a Statewide Comprehensive Geographic Information System; and, that

2. The funding should be guided by the GIS Plan developed by the Interagency Team and endorsed by the N.C. Geographic Information Coordinating Council and the N.C. Board of Transportation.

ADOPTED THIS 8 DAY OF Jany, 2007.

Jane B. Preyer Director, NC office, Environmental Defense

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