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FAX: 406-444-0266 • <http://msl.mt.gov>

Senator Steve Daines
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Geospatial Data Act ([S.2128](#))

August 24, 2018

Dear Senator Daines,

On behalf of the Montana State Library's Land Information Advisory Council, I am writing to ask for your consideration of the Geospatial Data Act. This important legislation was introduced in November 2017 as S.2128 by Senator Orrin Hatch with cosponsors Senators Mark Warner, Dean Heller, Ron Wyden, John Boozman, Amy Klobuchar, Shelley Capito, Jeff Merkley, Jon Tester, Cory Gardner, Joni Ernst, Maggie Hassan, Jim Inhofe, Tom Udall, and Angus King. We hope the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation may take up this bill shortly. We respectfully request your assistance so that the Committee can examine this legislation.

Federal agency efforts have been guided since 1994 by E.O. 12906, OMB Circular A-16, and various plans have emerged from the Federal Geographic Data Committee's Geospatial Line of Business initiative. Federal agencies were never given a clear mandate or the authority to do the job, and there has been inadequate monitoring and enforcement of their activities. They have failed to build the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) as clearly evidenced in the latest of a series of related Government Accountability Office Reports (<http://bit.ly/1wRkoH4>) and the Report Card on the NSDI (<http://bit.ly/2iojMIP>).

The Geospatial Data Act will help to resolve these issues through the various provisions of the bill, and Congressional oversight of Federal agencies is a critical component. It will also increase the voice of the stakeholder community through the language related to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee, which is comprised of the various sectors of the stakeholder community.

Geospatial data (like aerial imagery, road centerlines, parcels, elevation, streams and water bodies, government boundaries, and geodetic control) are critical to maintain our Federal infrastructure and national economy. Multiple versions of these data are routinely duplicated at great cost and used throughout all levels of government to meet agency missions and provide services to our citizens. It is very feasible to build multi-purpose national data layers that meet the requirements of all stakeholders, but more authorities and responsibilities will need to be given to Federal agencies to make this happen.

We need strong national leadership in the development of the NSDI to reduce waste and duplication of effort. It will come from the passage of the Geospatial Data Act. I urge you to support this important legislation by joining the cosigners of this bill.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. I can be reached by email at jstapp2@mt.gov or by phone at 406-444-3116.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennie Stapp".

Jennie Stapp, State Librarian
Montana State Library



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Senator Jon Tester
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Geospatial Data Act ([S.2128](#))

August 28, 2018

Dear Senator Tester,

On behalf of the Montana State Library's Land Information Advisory Council, thank you for cosponsoring the Geospatial Data Act. This important legislation was introduced in November 2017 as S.2128 by Senator Orrin Hatch. We hope the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation may take up this bill shortly. We respectfully request your assistance so that the Committee can examine this legislation.

Federal agency efforts have been guided since 1994 by E.O. 12906, OMB Circular A-16, and various plans have emerged from the Federal Geographic Data Committee's Geospatial Line of Business initiative. Federal agencies were never given a clear mandate or the authority to do the job, and there has been inadequate monitoring and enforcement of their activities. They have failed to build the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) as clearly evidenced in the latest of a series of related Government Accountability Office Reports (<http://bit.ly/1wRkoH4>) and the Report Card on the NSDI (<http://bit.ly/2iojMIP>).

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We need strong national leadership in the development of the NSDI to reduce waste and duplication of effort. It will come from the passage of the Geospatial Data Act. I urge you to support this important legislation by joining the cosigners of this bill.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. I can be reached by email at jstapp2@mt.gov or by phone at 406-444-3116.

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Jennie Stapp, State Librarian
Montana State Library