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A Pennsylvania Local Development District

August 11, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

The Northwest Pennsylvania GIS User Group is a group of individuals who meet on a regular basis to discuss geospatial technology (GIS, GPS, mapping, etc.) and best practices. User group membership is made up from GIS users/professionals in the eight counties in northwest Pennsylvania along with other GIS professionals from around the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Supported by the Pennsylvania Mapping and Geographic Information Consortium (PaMAGIC), the NW PA GIS User Group has succeeded and gained strength particularly in the areas of awareness, education, shared resource, and training on GIS technology as well as in leadership and knowledge to support GIS-related projects. The NW PA GIS User Group understands that coordination among GIS systems is critical in achieving a highly efficient and effective network of spatial systems that benefit Pennsylvanians.

Recognizing that coordination and communication is vital to successful GIS implementation, the NW PA GIS User Group supports and endorses the Geospatial Coordination Strategic Plan for Pennsylvania which was unveiled at the 2009 Pa GIS Conference. This Plan calls for the formation of a GIS Council which we believe is necessary and long overdue. A GIS Council can leverage Pennsylvania's resources by bringing people together from various geospatial backgrounds to provide an excellent facility for collective leadership and decision-making.

Sincerely,

Matt

Matthew P. Gilara, GISP
Northwest Commission