

Testimony  
In Favor of LD-1687

An Act to Improve Geographic Information System Data Acquisition and Maintenance

Before the Joint Standing Committee On State and Local Government  
04 May 2023

Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and Distinguished Members of the Committee

My name is Mal Carey. A resident of Newcastle, I'm retired from an IT career in municipal planning, social science research, and campus IT management.

In retirement I've done a bit pro bono GIS work for my town and for Lincoln County. I've also regularly attended meetings of the GeoLibrary Board as a citizen observer and served on the GeoLibrary's Geo-Spatial Data Workgroup. This year I was appointed to the "Public" seat on the Board.

Over the last decade, the practical need for up-to-date, high resolution, GIS data in the business community, in government at all levels, in civil society entities, and among independent activists and researchers has increased.

State support for acquisition and distribution of Geo-Spatial data to State agencies, towns and counties, and the public has not kept pace with the growth of end-user Geo-Spatial Data needs.

Climate Change has gone from an academic concern to practical action items about road maintenance, sewage treatment plant freeboard, culvert resizing, temperature-enabled invasive species adaptations, carbon sequestration in standing and processed wood, and numerous other "now" and "soon or else" matters.

Municipalities of all sizes and Regional Planning organizations across the State currently struggle with the many conflicting facets of addressing our housing shortage and improving the business environment while seeking to protect the environment. Up-to-date GIS data is essential in these efforts.

The staff augmentation and data acquisition funding proposed by this bill is a needed and reasonable incremental step to improve GIS services for State and local governments, the business community, and the public.

Sincerely,



Mal Carey