



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Virginia Geographic Information Network Advisory Board

Senator John C. Watkins
 Chairman
 Chesterfield

Senator Mark D. Obenshain
 Harrisonburg

Del. Richard L. Anderson, Woodbridge

Del. James A. Leftwich, Jr. Chesapeake

Del. L. Scott Lingamfelter, Woodbridge

Del. Robert K. Krupicka, Jr. Alexandria

Constance Brennan
 Nelson County

Douglas A. Richmond
 Virginia Association of Surveyors

Charles W. Donato
 Dominion Resources

Elaine Roop, VA Utility Protection Service
 Roanoke

Christopher R. Knights
 Barboursville

John M. Palatiello
 Reston

Dr. Hua Liu, Old Dominion University

Nelson Moe, Chief Information Officer, VITA

Clyde Cristman
 Department of Conservation and Recreation

Charles A. Kilpatrick, P.E.
 Department of Transportation

Martin Briley
 Virginia Econminc Development Partnership

Dan Widner
 VGIN Coordinator
 (804) 416-6198

Statement from the VGIN Advisory Board
 RE: Geospatial Data Act of 2015, United States Senate bill S.740
 October 15, 2015

Federal geospatial activities have a direct impact upon state and local government in Virginia. Local and state geospatial data is routinely shared with federal entities to provide the most accurate and reliable base mapping data available. The National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) provides a structure for federal base mapping that has also been successfully applied in Virginia and other states. However, the federal NSDI has failed to be fully executed due to a lack of authority and mandate within the federal government as evidenced by the latest in a series of related GAO Reports (<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-193>) and the Report Card on the U.S. National Spatial Data Infrastructure (<http://www.cogo.pro/uploads/COGO-Report Card on NSDI.pdf>).

The Geospatial Data Act of 2015 will help to resolve these issues. The various provisions of the bill and Congressional oversight of Federal activities are needed to ensure a successful NSDI. It will also increase the voice of the stakeholder community by empowering the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) which is comprised of members from all sectors. It is a structure that has been successfully implemented in Virginia, one that is overseen by the VGIN Advisory Board.

The VGIN Advisory Board expresses its support for the goals of the federal Geospatial Data Act of 2015 and look forward to its continued refinement as it works through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Senator John C. Watkins
 Senate of Virginia
 VGIN Advisory Board Chairman