



CIRCUM-PACIFIC COUNCIL

May 11, 2012

Mr. Nick Mastrodicasa
Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
MS-2525
PO Box 196900
Anchorage, AK 99519-6900

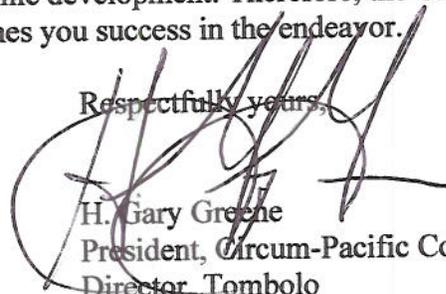
Dear Mr. Mastrodicasa:

On behalf of the Circum-Pacific Council (CPC), I am writing to express our support for DOTPF's goal to update Alaska's digital elevation model (DEM) within the next 3-4 years under the Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative (SDMI). As documented in the 2008 *Alaska DEM Whitepaper*, the need for this mapping is established and timely. CPC has long been a proponent of comprehensive terrestrial and coastal zone mapping as shown in its publications of Pacific basin maps (www.circum-pacificcouncil.org) and continues to encourage modern mapping efforts around the world. GeoHab, CPC's signature coastal mapping annual workshop in 2008 gathered our international mapping experts in Sitka.

Alaska contains considerable unmapped areas and the need to produce detailed maps is essential for planning and other activities that require geo-spatial data sets for management. Any effort to collect data for mapping purposes will be beneficial to the evaluation of the State's resources, geohazards and environment. SDMI done in a comprehensive manner should realize a good cost-to-benefit ratio.

My understanding is that a group of federal experts predict Alaska's IFSAR-generated DEM will pay for itself within 3 years of completion. The DEM produced from this effort will reach far beyond resource development and infrastructure applications to include aviation safety, homeland security, and economic development. Therefore, the Circum-Pacific Council endorses this activity and wishes you success in the endeavor.

Respectfully yours,



H. Gary Greene
President, Circum-Pacific Council
Director, Tombolo