



Introduced By: Thomas Bundtzen, Chair, Natural Resources Committee
Date Introduced: April 6, 2009
Date Passed: April 6, 2009
Date Transmitted: April 6, 2009

RESOLUTION 09-0406

A RESOLUTION BY THE GREATER FAIRBANKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GFCC) SUPPORTING CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA’S “STATEWIDE DIGITAL MAPPING INITIATIVE (SDMI)”

WHEREAS, as stated in the GFCC Bylaws (Section 1A:4), The GFCC advocates for the development and wise use of Alaska’s natural resources and strives to have a working knowledge of technical, financial and political aspects surrounding development; and

WHEREAS, Alaska’s existing maps and digital imagery are either out-of-date or inadequate for many modern applications; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is the only state that does not have publicly available ortho-imagery coverage consisting of digital aerial photographs and/or satellite imagery which can be used to manage their land and develop their resources; and

WHEREAS, ortho-imagery is essential for responsible land management and development of the state’s vast natural resource potential, helping to minimize cost and risks, while ensuring safe and responsible stewardship of the state’s resources; and

WHEREAS, ortho-imagery is a valuable tool to assist companies interested in managing Alaska’s resources; and

WHEREAS, ortho-imagery is a critical tool for wildland fire fighters providing the State Division of Forestry, BLM-Alaska Fire Service, and fire departments with the capability to determine homes in danger from an approaching local fire, subdivisions in need of evacuation, vegetation fuel types in front of a fire, safety zones for fire fighters, water sources for suppressing a fire, and the fastest access routes to a fire location; and

WHEREAS, ortho-imagery is a critical tool used by wildland fire managers to make strategic decisions about managing large wildfires which have resulted in saving millions of tax payers dollars in fire suppression costs and to plan fuel treatments protecting Alaska’s communities; and

WHEREAS, ortho-imagery is a critical tool used by the Alaska State Troopers in search and rescue and hostage situations;

INVESTORS

DIAMOND

- BP Exploration
ConocoPhillips
ExxonMobil
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
FMH & Denali Center
Flint Hills Resources Alaska

PLATINUM

- Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.
Carlson Center
Fred Meyer
GCI
Golden Heart Utilities
Mt. McKinley Bank
Wells Fargo Bank Alaska

GOLD

- Alaska USA FCU
Birchwood Homes
Denali State Bank
Design Alaska
Doyon, Limited
First National Bank Alaska
Kinross-Fort Knox Mine
Laborers Union Local 942
MAC Federal Credit Union
The Boeing Co.
Usibelli Coal Mine

SILVER

- ACS
Alaska Airlines
Alaska Railroad
AT&T
Denali – The Alaska Gas Pipeline
Everts Air Cargo
Fairbanks Natural Gas
Flowline Alaska
Fountainhead Development
GVEA
Hale & Associates, Inc.
JL Properties, Inc.
Key Bank
K Janitorial Services, LLC
Northrim Bank
Operating Engineers Local 302
Personnel Plus
Pogo Mine
Santina’s Flowers & Gifts
Spirit of Alaska FCU
Tanana Valley Clinic
TDL Professional Staffing
TOTE



**WHEREAS**, ortho-imagery is an important management tool for fisheries and wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, updated ortho-imagery would support scientists studying hazards such as coastal storms and flooding, wildfires, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions and those studying coastal processes and climate change, sea ice, glaciers, ecology, hydrology, wildlife and fisheries; and

**WHEREAS**, updated ortho-imagery would support local government agencies with land use and land development plans; and

**WHEREAS**, UAF's Capital Budget Request for Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative (SDMI) would establish a ground receiving station in Alaska, which would be controlled by SDMI allowing for the rapid updating of statewide ortho-imagery for active wildfires, flooding, volcanic eruptions, or other emergency response;

**WHEREAS**, UAF's Capital Budget Request for SDMI would provide statewide ortho-imagery online to all users, the general public would have access to ortho-imagery for recreational activities such as hunting, hiking, camping and so on, and ortho-imagery would be made available through such popular online services as Google Earth or Alaska Mapped; and

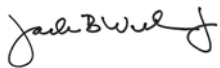
**WHEREAS**, UAF's Capital Budget Request for SDMI provides a good timely and economical resolution for the entire state; and

**WHEREAS**, less than 10% of the state is currently covered by high resolution ortho-imagery available for public use; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce supports UAF's Capital Budget Request for \$6 million dollars for the Alaska Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative and the establishment of a ground receiving station in Alaska for Spot imagery.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be distributed to:

The Honorable Governor Sarah Palin, State of Alaska  
Interior Delegation of the Alaska Legislature  
Mayor Jim Whitaker, Fairbanks North Star Borough  
Mayor Terry Strle, City of Fairbanks  
Assembly Members, Fairbanks North Star Borough  
Council Members, City of Fairbanks



Jack Wilbur, Jr.  
Board Chair  
Greater Fairbanks Chamber of commerce



Thomas Bundtzen  
Chair  
Natural Resources Committee