



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Office of the Director

Reston, Virginia 20192

Honorable Susan M. Collins
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

MAR 13 2003

Dear Senator Collins:

Thank you for your letter of February 13, 2003, regarding the commitment of the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) to the orthoimagery program in the State of Maine. In November, Maine voters approved a \$1.6 million bond to update orthoimagery for the State. The bond funds become available only if matched by Federal funds. The USGS is committed to matching the funds provided by Maine through a combination of funds and in-kind work using in-house resources over a 2-year period (fiscal year (FY) 2003 through FY 2004). Both the USGS and the State of Maine will continue to pursue other Federal partners to enhance the ability to complete this project.

The project cost estimates currently stand at \$777,302 for aerial photography collection, \$637,910 for 10-meter digital elevation model (DEM) generation, and \$1,453,305 for orthoimagery production and mosaicking. This is a total of \$2,868,517 to be split over a 2-year period. The USGS can commit \$290,313 toward photography collection and \$173,705 toward orthoimagery production over the next 2 years, pending availability of funds in FY 2004. All other USGS commitments will be in-kind services in DEM generation, orthoimagery production and mosaicking, and quality assurance activities to match the balance of funds from Maine.

The USGS State liaison, Ms. Lynn Bjorklund, will work with Mr. Dan Walters, Chief of the Maine Office of Geographic Information Systems, to document the terms of this project in two agreements, one for each fiscal year, and to set the parameters and schedule for photography collection and orthoimagery production for the State of Maine. It is the understanding of USGS that Maine will make these data available on-line and in the public domain upon completion of the project, as is consistent with "The National Map."

A copy of this letter committing the USGS as a partner in the Maine orthoimagery project will be sent to Mr. Harry Lanphear, Chief Information Officer for Maine, per your request.

Honorable Susan M. Collins

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Thank you for your interest in programs of the USGS and for supporting "The National Map." If you have further questions, please contact Ms. Barbara Ryan, Associate Director for Geography, at 703-648-7413.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles G. Groat". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Charles G. Groat
Director

Copy to: Honorable Olympia J. Snowe
 Mr. Harry Lanphear
 Mr. Dan Walters