



September 3, 2010

Mr. Shelby D. Johnson
Geographic Information Office
1 Capitol Mall, 2nd Floor, 2B 900
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Arkansas's timber and forest products community benefit greatly from the services and products made available through the Arkansas Geographic Information Office. As an industry which utilizes land-based resources, we depend on readily available, accurate information that is provided through our state's Geographic Information Systems. This assistance translates into the ability to manage the land more efficiently and in turn allows us to grow and remain a prosperous part of Arkansas's multifaceted economy.

Some of the ways the timber and forest products community uses GIS data include updating timber stands from aerial photography, determining access to remote areas, and verifying stock on young plantations. Current, high resolution photos also assist us in times of emergency, such as wildfires and assisting first responders in search and rescue missions. Road Centerline Files are also very important in providing directions when wildfires strike, and parcel data is invaluable in identifying adjoining landowners. These are just a few of the ways Arkansas Forestry Association members use the information and technology you make available.

The Arkansas Forestry Association supports the 2010 Geospatial Strategic Business Plan. We understand the challenges you face in finding a reliable and recurring funding stream for the plan. Thus, we urge the Governor and the State Legislature to make the necessary funding a priority during the upcoming 2011 Legislative Session.

Sincerely,

Max Braswell
Executive Vice President

Miles Lacy
President
Morriton

Allen Morgan
Vice President
Arkadelphia

Ray Dillon
Secretary
El Dorado

Rhonda Hunter
Treasurer
DeQueen

Max Braswell
Executive
Vice President