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June 28, 2010

Governor Mike Beebe  
State Capitol Room 205  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Governor Beebe,

Tax Parcel GIS data has become a vital resource for County Assessors to perform their duties. A number of counties have resources that have allowed them to begin this work but many do not. County Assessors have a tough time funding mapping projects in addition to the expense of maintaining the project once it is completed but we understand the strategic nature of this data and want our counties to be successful despite these challenges.

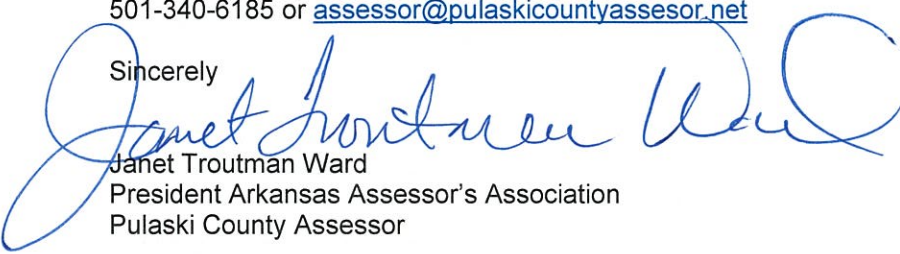
Our data reaches far beyond the walls of the County Assessor's Office. In the counties where this data has been digitized it is a vital resource to agencies within the state and elsewhere. The data is used by the Banking Industry, Realtors, Surveyors, Floodplain Administrators, and countless others. The Arkansas Geographic Information Office has been instrumental to the Assessors in implementing GIS mapping projects and making this rich source of information available through the state's Geostor system for anyone to retrieve. This reduces our need to respond to information requests and allows us to remain focused on our constitutional duties of valuing property. Our information is only as good as the tools we have to create accurate data and make it available. State funding is imperative for those counties with limited resources to achieve this goal.

Assessors across the state have our own vested interest in having up to date Orthoimagery and Digitized County Tax Parcel Polygons. It will enhance our efforts to have a fair and equitable tax base. The County Assessors believe it in the best interest of our prime beneficiary, public education to fund this program to allow all Counties to develop the very best and most equitable assessments based on quality data.

The Arkansas Assessor's Association is in support of the 2010 Geospatial Strategic Business Plan for Arkansas and we urge you, our Governor and the State Legislature to find a way to fund this endeavor by the Arkansas Geographic Information Office.

If you or your staff would like to speak further about this matter I am at your service at 501-340-6185 or [assessor@pulaskicountyassessor.net](mailto:assessor@pulaskicountyassessor.net)

Sincerely

  
Janet Troutman Ward  
President Arkansas Assessor's Association  
Pulaski County Assessor

Cc Shelby Johnson AGIO Office  
Jon Moran Governor's Office