Affiliate of the Seventh Generation Fund for Indian Development

Mr. Jeff McKenna
OSGeo VP Conferences
Suite 200
30 Rosemount Avenue
Ottawa, OK K1Y 1P4
CANADA

December 4, 2008

Dear Mr McKenna,

On behalf of Indigenous Mapping Network (IMN), we are pleased to support the Denver Local Organizing Committee's (Denver LOC) bid to host the Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial (FOSS4G) Conference in 2010.

Our grassroots organization is an affiliate of the Seventh Generation Fund (SGF) for Indian Development, meaning the SGF serves as our fiscal agent. IMN's leadership, talking circle. consists of eight GIS professionals who work with Native American communities or reservations across the country. IMN's mission is to empower native communities by connecting them with the tools they need to protect, preserve, and enhance their way of life within their aboriginal territories. Our endeavor includes bridging the gap between modern mapping technologies and traditional "mapping" practices.

IMN is a conduit for native individuals and groups to meet and build relationships, and assist one another in accomplishing sovereignty goals. We have started using various Web 2 social and professional networking and provide an annual conference to share GIS success stories and tools. A recent article highlighted on NativeBiz.com revealed that 260 of almost 600 federally recognized Tribes are using ESRI software. We would like our tribal communities to explore open source options for managing land, and Denver provides a middle meeting ground to participate and learn from FOSS4G. The last few years have been prohibitive for many U.S. (including Alaska and Hawaii) tribes to attend this international conference. Under the present economic hardships many tribes are facing and lack of resources, a FOSS4G in Denver is more likely within grasp.

Geospatial information is critical to our network. IMN would like to promote and become informed on the uses and the ways to contribute to Open Source software. Our present website, http://indigenousmapping.net is built upon and up-to-date with the latest developments of Joomla!, an open source content management system, using Linux, MySQL and PHP. We could benefit from learning how to share or link up with open-source geospatial tools.

Denver is a beautiful city with an excellent reputation for hosting large conferences. The city provides all the comfort and activities of a major metropolitan region and the nearby Rocky Mountains provide world renowned Winter-time activities.

Indigenous Mapping Network looks forward to welcoming the FOSS4G Conference and the open source geospatial community to Denver in 2010.

Sincerely,

Celene Elm, GIS/Planning Director, Oneida Nation of Wisconsin
Darlene Jenkins, Rural Addressing & E-911, Navajo Nation
Edith "Wook" Powaukee, GIS Technician, Nez Perce Tribe
Joshua Arnold, Planner, Coeur d' Alene Tribe
Kelly Hetzler, GIS/Forester, San Carlos Apache
Laura Harjo, (Muscogee Creek) Project Asst./ Research Associate at USC & Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa's Office
M. C. Baldwin, Rural Addressing & E-911, Navajo Nation
Rosemarie McKeon, (Mescalero Apache/Meztiso) Web Developer/Editor, Indigenous Mapping Network, PO Box 491, Berkeley, California 94701