

April 18, 2012

The Honorable Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

NYS GIS Association
P.O. Box 17
Cohoes, NY 12047

Dear Governor Cuomo,

The New York State Geographic Information Systems Association asks you to endorse the Association of American Geographers' Resolution on Supporting K-12 Geography Education. (The text of this resolution is attached.) To date, 14 Governors and numerous other dignitaries have endorsed or supported it (<http://www.aag.org/cs/AAGEducationResolution/supporters>).

The Resolution asks the Congress and President Obama's administration to include Geography in its Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Blueprint for Reform proposals. The resolution also supports the Teaching Geography is Fundamental Act and endorses appropriate authorizations to back that law and all others supporting Geography education.

In the past few years, Geography and Geospatial Intelligence have become a tremendous resource for economic competitiveness. Yet, nationally, the USA lags behind many countries in Geography Education. When Congress and the President passed the historic overhaul of the US Education system in 2002, Geography was identified as one of 10 key subject fields. However, no specific funding or advancement of Geographic education has yet been conducted.

In this global century, the New York State workforce cannot afford to fall behind other nations. Understanding global economic opportunities and learning about other nations is a fundamental geographic skill. Just as important as a global understanding, is knowledge about the dynamics of our own communities. Without a firm basis in geography education and geospatial intelligence, New York and the rest of the US will be outpaced in global growth and development by other nations who place a greater emphasis in these areas.

In order to further advance Geographic education, and more importantly, improve the quality of New York State's 21st century workforce, we are asking you to endorse the Association of American Geographers' K-12 Geography Education Resolution.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce Oswald, President (on behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the NYS GIS Association)

cc: NYS GIS Assoc. Board