January 28, 1998

Gale Sittig, Chair
Geographic Information Board
The Capital
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Ms. Sittig:

I am writing to provide a status report on the GIB directed efforts to address issues related to the use global positioning systems (GPS) and other technologies by those not licensed as surveyors and mappers. The GPS-GIS Work Group has met five times and a number of others responded to questions and commented on documents through a fax/e-mail input process.

The Work Group recommended that the Bureau of Professional Surveying and Mapping conduct a negotiated rule-making process to clarify the definition of supervision. BPSM has initiated that process.

At the last meeting there was not a consensus to seek changes in Chapter 472. The group explored non-legislative options to addressing the problem. The group made a tentative recommendation to explore obtaining an Attorney General's opinion. After checking with counsel, the League of Cities and Association of Counties withdrew their support for requesting an opinion. The Governor's Office legal counsel indicated that the request, as presented, may not be appropriate. The Florida Surveying and Mapping Society also expressed concerns about the wording of the request. At this time this does not appear to be a viable approach.

The group has worked hard, clarified the problem and developed a number of possible ways to address it. If a bill is introduced to modify Chapter 472 the GIB may want to encourage the Work Group to reconvene to seek mutually acceptable, practical language.

I look forward to meeting with the GIB and assisting in any way I can.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas A. Taylor
Assistant Director