

# **Congresswoman Candice S. Miller**

Opening Statement

Committee on Government Reform

Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations, and the Census

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## OPENING STATEMENT

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The issue of geospatial information could not be more appropriate for this subcommittee. Since the passage of the E-Government Act of 2002 and the creation of the Geospatial One-Stop initiative, a newfound effort has developed by Federal agencies to coordinate with state and local and private industry to develop an effective Federal policy and to increase the effectiveness of government services. This subcommittee has jurisdiction over geospatial information policy and has a great opportunity to ensure improved effectiveness and efficiency of this developing technology.

Geospatial information is utilized by all government entities – Federal, State, and local – to effectively target resources. From the best placement for a senior health center in a rural district to the most effective allocation of funds for Federal programs targeting inner-city youth, the amount of information available is abundant. However, Federal, state and local governments and private industry find themselves engaging in redundant tasks if information were better shared.

The Department of the Interior, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, state governments and local farm groups should have access to the same public information to better allocate their resources. In geospatial information, many of the issues – such as concerns over privacy – associated with information sharing are avoided. A system simply needs to be developed so that accurate information is available to all interested parties working toward the public good.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this hearing today so that the Members of this Subcommittee and the public can gain an understanding of what geospatial information involves. I look forward to the testimony of the witnesses so that it is clear as to what has been done in the past, what the current state of affairs is, and what needs to be done in order to create an effective policy.