

ACTION ITEM FORM

Subject of Action Item: __New Section 10.5 Global Positioning System
(Policy Title)



Submitted By __Commissioner Steve Troxler
(Name)

North Carolina
(State)

Text (Please write legibly):

Attached is a letter to Congressional Members supporting the National Differential Global Positioning System, including the terrestrial component, which is a valuable asset in anticipating and responding to natural, infrastructure and intentional disasters, as well as making major contributions to weather predicting; rescue and recovery; and agriculture.

Signature _____

Date _____

Adopted _____
Adopted w/ Amend. _____
Not Adopted _____

D R A F T

Honorable David Obey, Chair
Committee on Appropriations
US House of Representatives
H-218 United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Jerry Lewis, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
US House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable John W. Olver, Chair
Transportation, HUD and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
Appropriations Committee
US House of Representatives
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Joe Knollenberg, Ranking
Member
Transportation, HUD and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
US House of Representatives
2349 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Gentlemen:

Thank you for including \$5 million in the Fiscal Year 2008 budget for the National Differential GPS (NDGPS) program in the Department of Transportation's Research, Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) account.

In your conference report, we ask you to include language prohibiting the Department of Transportation from using any of the FY 2008 NDGPS appropriation or any other Departmental funds to plan for or to commence a shutdown of NDGPS.

On August 1, 2007 the Department/RITA posted a request for public comment in the *Federal Register* to assess "current user needs and systems requirements of the inland (terrestrial) component of NDGPS," with a view to making a recommendation about the future existence and funding for NDGPS.

We strongly oppose shutting down the terrestrial component of NDGPS. Moreover, we ask that NDGPS funding be restored to not less than the \$10 million level of FY 2006 and prior years so that the terrestrial component of NDGPS can be completed within a reasonable time.

NDGPS is a bargain with a high benefit-to-cost ratio. It serves a rapidly growing and virtually inexhaustible array of uses by individuals, business, industry, local and state governments, agriculture, land use planning, construction, navigation, GIS systems, education, research and many more disciplines. At the national level, NDGPS is a valuable asset in anticipating and responding to natural, infrastructure and intentional disasters, making major contributions to weather predicting, rescue and recovery.

Sincerely,