

February 10, 2016

Leslie Zolman
Montana Department of Commerce
301 South Park Ave
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Leslie:

As the Land Information Lead representing the MSDI theme leads for Administrative Boundaries, Structures/Addresses, and Transportation, I strongly support the Montana Department of Commerce's Census Designated Places Update effort and their FY 2017 request for MLIA funding.

The 2016/2017 Montana Land Information Plan notes the need to improve the accuracy of land record information as a path to more accurate GIS data overall. The Montana Department of Commerce's grant proposal meets this need by coordinating updates to Census Designated Places (CDP) with local communities and the US Census Bureau and proposing a standardized method to use MSDI Framework layers, including existing administrative boundaries and digital PLSS (CadNSDI) data, as sources for CDP creation. Additionally, current and accurate CDPs may provide local governments a source for unincorporated place name attributes in required NG9-1-1 data layers such as site/structure address points and road centerlines.

The Montana State Library looks forward to working with the Montana Department of Commerce and will help with providing Framework databases and other authoritative GIS data layers that will be used as potential boundaries.

Sincerely,



Michael Fashoway
GIS Analyst/Land Information Lead
Montana State Library