



State of California
925 L Street, Suite 805
Sacramento, CA 95814
PH: 916-445-2125

March 12, 2020

The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris, Chair
Assembly Committee on Accountability and Administrative Review
1020 N Street, Room 357
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 2209

Dear Assemblymember Petrie-Norris,

The Little Hoover Commission supports AB 2209 (Mayes), which would establish a Geographic Information Officer to oversee the Geographic Information Office within the Department of Technology for the purpose of coordinating the state's geographic information systems (GIS) projects, promulgating standards for data collection and sharing, and managing shared data resources.

In its 2019 report, *Mapping a Strategy for GIS*, the Commission found that while many state agencies currently use GIS in a variety of ways such as responding to disasters, monitoring highway improvement projects, and detecting insurance fraud, California's use of GIS is inconsistent, and lacks centralization and coordination. To gain full advantage of this important technology, the Commission recommended the state 1) designate and empower a State Geographic Information Officer to serve as California's GIS leader; 2) formalize a GIS Advisory Council comprised of state GIS users, government leaders, and stakeholders to advise the State GIS Officer on issues of policy and implementation; and 3) use GIS to evaluate regional disparities in funding and the delivery of government services.

AB 2209 would successfully carry out these recommendations and establish appropriate leadership at the state level for California to approach GIS as a statewide asset. For these reasons the Little Hoover Commission supports AB 2209 and encourages an AYE vote. If I, the Commission, or our staff can provide any further assistance as this proposal moves through the legislative process, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Pedro Nava
Chairman