LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING SOFTWARE PURCHASED FOR USE IN SOUTH DAKOTA AND MINNESOTA

This memorandum is prepared in response to a request to provide information regarding redistricting software being used in South Dakota and Minnesota.

SOUTH DAKOTA

The South Dakota Legislative Research Council has purchased autoBound, which is a product of Digital Engineering Corporation. AutoBound uses the ArcView desktop geographic information system (GIS). A representative of the South Dakota Legislative Research Council indicated that autoBound appears to be a good product well-suited for redistricting in that state. He stated that autoBound is easy to use, and he is confident in their decision to purchase autoBound.

MINNESOTA

The Minnesota Legislature has chosen Maptitude, a redistricting application distributed by Caliper Corporation, as its redistricting application. A representative of the Minnesota Senate Counsel indicated that Maptitude was chosen because it is quick and easy to use. He indicated that although Maptitude does not use ArcView, the Minnesota Legislature will continue to use ArcView to plot the Maptitude maps and a map objects routine to put them on the web. He indicated the main reasons for choosing Maptitude were its speed, flexibility, and ease of use. He said the Minnesota Legislature purchased autoBound, but the GIS staff developed a preference for Maptitude which was also being tested at the same time.