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Dear NSF representative,

On behalf of Red Hat, Inc., I am pleased to support the North Carolina State University proposal to the Information Technology Research program entitled "Computational dynamic landscape manipulation and optimization for OPEN source GIS." We strongly support NCSU efforts towards the development of the campus-wide Open source computational environment and we welcome the opportunity to collaborate with NCSU over the next several years on the development of exciting new tools for effective use of geospatial information.

Recently, we have announced a collaborative open source initiative between NCSU and Red Hat to standardize their College of Engineering academic computing environment (EOS) on open source technologies. This initiative is a continuation of Red Hat's University Program to bring the benefits of open source software to educational facilities worldwide, and is a combination of Red Hat's open source leadership, comprehensive resources and active university community outreach, and NC State's reputation as a leading and progressive engineering university. Throughout the progress of Dr. H. Mitasova team's progress, we will promote the work that is being done from our education Web site.

We believe that the partnership with NCSU brings unique and valuable contributions not only to the research and education community but also to open source development at large. We look forward to expanding our relationship with NCSU into new, rapidly growing areas, such as geoinformation technology,

Sincerely,

Emily Ball

Emily Ball

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