

March 1, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter of recommendation for Mr. Robert Andrew is based on my professional knowledge and collegial experience since 2000. Over this period, I have worked with Mr. Andrew on numerous geospatial projects. Currently, I am the Geospatial Projects Manager for the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC. I am also a Researcher in Residence and Adjunct Faculty member at American University in the Department of Computer Science and Physics. My primary background is in urban planning and public administration.

Mr. Andrew and I shared common interests in the integration of collaboration, data visualization, and geospatial problem solving. Mr. Andrew's greatest strength is his ability to keenly focus on the essence of both technical and organizational problems and to synthesize information to find solutions. His scientific engineering training always gave him a welcomed advantage to arrive at a creative solution at any scale from neighborhood, to city, to region.

We worked together at ICF Consulting to design a geospatial management system for USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service. This basic design is being implemented today as we set out in 2001. I met Mr. Andrew when I led the Washington GIS Consortium and the final delivery of orthophotographic and planimetric data for the District of Columbia. We all welcomed Mr. Andrew's sound advice about transportation, land use recordation, and urban design. He went onto implement for the Casey Trees Foundation a very important project that combined technical software development skills, logistical planning, and knowledge of jurisdictional and land ownership conflicts here.

To me his most impressive work was at the national scale and was certainly hardly a more important one of guiding the assessment of Congressional redistricting after the 2000 Census. He worked assiduously to overcome very technical software system challenges in a very politically delicate environment as a contractor to the Department of Justice. You can see in his "2001 Chronology of Redistricting in Washington D.C" how his knowledge of the federal and local redistricting process and his knowledge of the capabilities of GIS software were critical to resolving disputes at neighborhood and national scales.

Every one of his professional, civic, and academic projects combined a thoroughly knowledge of the substantive issues with a brilliant focus on technical solutions but not obstacles and with facilitating collaboration rather than surrendering to or creating roadblocks. He always has an inspiring way of showing that a solution is ready to hand rather than beyond reach. We worked side by side in corporate, civic, and academic environments, and I always found him to exceed the highest professional standards of conduct and fairness.

He has my highest regard as an engineer, urban planner, and academic colleague. Any public entity or private corporation should welcome his insight, judgment, and optimism.

Please feel free to contact me for more information regarding Mr. Andrew's qualifications.

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