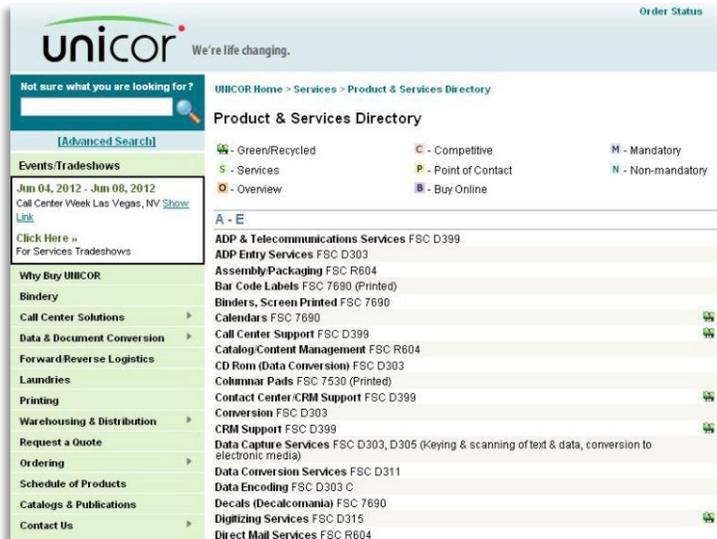


## *Federal Prison Industries (FPI)*

Someone is stealing private sector jobs ... and they're already in prison! Along with other industries and professions, the private mapping community is deeply concerned about the entry of Federal Prison Industries ("FPI") -- a corporation created by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons (operating as UNICOR) -- into unfair government-sponsored competition with private enterprise.



FPI, and many state prison industries, have entered mapping-related services, including geographic information systems (GIS), computer aided design and drafting (CADD) services, data entry, scanning and digitizing. FPI has developed these capabilities to provide services to other Federal agencies. According to FPI's documents, it is "broadening its prime contractor role ... in the areas of ... digitization of maps for GIS applications, digitization of engineering and facilities management drawings (am/fm), scanning and digitizing, CALS conversions."

Under Federal law, FPI must diversify so far as practicable so that no single private industry carries

an undue burden of competition. Prior to entering an industry, the FPI board is required to make a report. One can hardly understand how FPI would not realize that entering the mapping field would not adversely affect the private sector. Numerous studies, including those by the Office of Management and Budget, recognize that the Federal government is in competition with the private sector in mapping, and Congress has been targeting mapping activities in Federal agencies for increased contracting out.

MAPPS believes this is an inappropriate area for FPI activity. Public health, welfare and safety are dependent on the quality of work performed by mapping professionals. To add to this highly technical and professional field such data as drawings, maps and images processed by prison inmates is not only an affront to the professionals in this field, but questionable to the public interest. Permitting prisoners access to data important to national or homeland security, or information about individual citizens' property and assets, is also unwise. MAPPS urges Congress to limit FPI's activity in and unfair competition with the private sector in mapping and other fields.

While Congress took a major step toward reform of Federal Prison Industries when it enacted a provision in the 2002 and 2003 Defense authorization bills, and the FY '05 omnibus appropriations bill, more comprehensive legislation is needed to reform FPI activities, including those affecting services. Comprehensive FPI reform last passed the House by an overwhelming 362-57 margin (H.R. 2965, September 14 2006, 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, roll call #443). A FPI reform bill was reported by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee in 2004 (S.346, 108<sup>th</sup> Congress) but did not reach the full Senate.

A new FPI reform bill, H.R. 3634, virtually identical to that which overwhelmingly passed the House in 2006, has been introduced on a bi-partisan basis by Representatives Bill Huizenga (R-MI), Barney Frank (D-MA), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Don Manzullo (R-IL), John Olver (D-MA), Edward Royce (R-CA), James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), and Patrick Tiberi (R-OH).

**Action Requested:** MAPPS urges House members to cosponsor H.R. 3634. To cosponsor this bill in the House, contact John Kran in Rep. Huizenga's office at 5-4401. MAPPS is seeking a Senator to introduce a companion bill in the Senate. For further information, contact John Byrd, MAPPS Government Affairs Manager, at [jbyrd@mapps.org](mailto:jbyrd@mapps.org) or 703-787-6996.