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NOAA / National Centers for Environmental Prediction
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Dr. Christopher J. Anderson
Research Assistant Professor
Iowa State University Climate Science Initiative
Iowa State University
2021 Agronomy Building
Ames, IA 50010

Dear Dr. Anderson,

The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is interested in collaborating with you and your team on the attached RISA proposal entitled "Midwest Consortium for Climate Assessment (MiCCA)".

At CPC, I lead the Joint Agricultural Weather Facility (JAWF) team, a unique federal partnership jointly operated between CPC and USDA's World Agricultural Outlook Board, which is responsible for JAWF's operational data and products, including the *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin*. I am also a CPC point of contact for current U.S. drought conditions and drought outlooks, which includes authoring the U.S. Drought Monitor, North American Drought Monitor, and U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlooks. Some of the challenges of monitoring and predicting drought in which RISAs already play a vital role:

- Ensuring accurate observations of drought conditions for use in monitoring and verifying forecasts;
- Maintaining and improving communications with actual users and stakeholders on better serving their needs (e.g. format and type of products, etc.);
- An on-going need for additional operational tools to enhance drought monitoring, assessments, and forecasts.

This proposal has the potential to produce benefits to enhance the use of climate information in addressing agricultural insurance programs, agricultural legislation, and developing improved planning tools for farm operators, local, state and national planners, and commodity organizations.

We support submission of this RISA proposal and we look forward to working with you on this project if funded. My participation in this proposal would include traveling to the stakeholder meetings, and availability for any guidance or information that this group may need regarding my knowledge and experience in drought conditions, products, and outlooks, with an emphasis on agricultural impacts.

Sincerely,

David Miskus
Meteorologist, Climate Prediction Center
NOAA / Climate Prediction Center