



## Rebuild Iowa Office

Governor Chester J. Culver  
Lt. Governor Patty Judge  
Lt Gen Ron Dardis, RIO Executive Director

---

August 24, 2010

Dear Review Committee:

The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) is pleased to offer this letter of support for the Midwest Consortium for Climate Assessment (MiCCA).

The RIO was created by Iowa Governor Culver in July 2008 and subsequently codified into law by the Iowa General Assembly to coordinate rebuilding efforts and long-term policy development following the devastating floods and storms that occurred during the spring and summer of 2008. To date, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) estimates that the tornado and flood damage of 2008 in Iowa ranks one of the top ten natural disasters in United States history as measured by the Public Assistance program.

Beyond addressing the immediate needs of impacted citizens, businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies, the RIO is charged with developing and executing a long-term plan for rebuilding a safer, stronger, smarter Iowa. Two areas of particular interest to RIO are developing policies and guidance concerning integrated local-regional-state planning and effective watershed management. To this end, RIO has championed smart planning legislation that includes considerations for incorporating hazard mitigation within local plans, as well as other policies to move the state forward regarding integrated, regional watershed management.

Each of the endeavors discussed above require data for the purposes of designing appropriate and effective policies and to measure their impact over time. MiCCA will assist in providing access to climate change information and projections, and will do so in a manner and on a scale that benefits those creating policy and conducting planning activities at various levels of government. The process MiCCA partners have outlined actively involves data users in the development of the program, ensuring that information is produced in a manner that is easily accessed and utilized by planners and decision-makers. MiCCA will build upon the work being conducted on a multi-agency pilot study exploring barriers and incentives to incorporating climate change adaptation in local planning efforts, the results of which will be included in a report to the White House Council on Environmental Quality. The Rebuild Iowa Office intends to be an active participant in MiCCA stakeholder meetings.

The information produced by MiCCA will be extremely valuable for planning for Iowa's and the Midwest's long-term economic viability and resiliency to natural disasters. I urge you to look favorably upon MiCCA's application.

Respectively,

Lt Gen Ron Dardis  
Executive Director  
Rebuild Iowa Office