



Iowa Association of  
Regional Councils

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Gary Taylor, J.D., AICP  
Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist  
Department of Community and Regional Planning  
Iowa State University  
286 College of Design  
Ames, Iowa 50011

Dear Gary:

As the statewide professional organization of Iowa's Councils of Governments (COGs), the Iowa Association of Regional Councils (IARC) is pleased to support Iowa State University's proposal to develop the Midwest Consortium for Climate Assessment (MiCCA). We believe this initiative will assist Iowa's COGs in providing planning, programming, and technical assistance to Iowa's cities, counties, businesses, community organizations and residents. In addition, IARC welcomes the opportunity to participate in the project's planned stakeholder meetings.

For the past 30 years, Iowa's COGs have been very involved in land use planning in Iowa. Our members work closely with communities and counties in their region to develop comprehensive land use plans, which consider economic development, transportation, infrastructure and housing. Over the past decade, Iowa's COGs have also become more involved in hazard mitigation planning. The COGs work closely with FEMA and Iowa's Department of Homeland Security to develop mitigation plans for their member communities. The natural disasters that took place in 2008 in Iowa have put an even larger focus on hazard mitigation planning and the need for Iowa communities to go through this process.

We believe this proposal will assist Iowa's COGs and local governments in better understanding climate information and how this information can help cities plan for the future. Climate information can assist with water supply planning, hazard mitigation planning, and comprehensive land use planning. We believe the Midwest Consortium for Climate Assessment (MiCCA) is an excellent first step in ensuring that communities incorporate climate information into planning processes. MiCCA would be able to transmit climate information in a way that can be understood by planners, engineers, and others working in local government.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Iowa Association of Regional Councils ♦ 1123 Sandalwood Ct, SW., Altoona, Iowa 50009

515.554.3210 ♦ [iarcdirector@live.com](mailto:iarcdirector@live.com)

[www.iarcog.com](http://www.iarcog.com)



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Nichole Warren  
Executive Director