Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, Governor • Mark N. Templeton, Director

## STATE OF MISSOURI OF NATURAL RESOURCES

www.dnr.mo.gov

August 14, 2009

Eugene S. Takle, Ph.D. Professor, Agronomy Director, ISU Climate Science Initiative 3010 Agronomy Hall Ames, IA 50011-1010

RE: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Regional Integrated Science and Assessments Program Application for the Midwest Consortium for Climate Assessment

Dear Dr. Takle:

I am writing in support of the "Midwest Consortium for Climate Assessment" (MiCCA) proposal being submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) program. Issues surrounding future drought and climate variability are critical to the well-being of the economy and natural resources in Missouri and pose significant challenges to agricultural producers, energy interests, water supply managers, state and federal land managers, and policy makers across the State.

Funding support for the MiCCA proposal will provide an excellent opportunity to integrate the scientific and technical understanding of regional climate projections with the decision making needs of Missourians at both the state and local levels. For example, Missouri's Drought Response Plan was first developed in 1995 and later updated in 2002. The focus of the plan has been to identify and implement the best risk management strategies available to reduce future drought impacts across Missouri. This process is highly reactive and occurs when drought conditions reach certain thresholds and Missouri's Drought Assessment Committee is activated. By partnering with the MiCCA scientific team and engaging stakeholders across the State, I believe this program will connect improved data and climatic forecasting capabilities with specific, proactive decisions to assist with drought risk reduction, prior to the onset of widespread drought conditions.

Missouri has a history of working closely with the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) and is actively engaged in drought-related initiatives such as those being organized by the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) led by NOAA. In addition, Missouri has recently enhanced both its hydrological and climatic monitoring capabilities as a direct result of the most recent drought period. These existing relationships and focus on enhanced monitoring serve to illustrate Missouri's concern for proactive risk management and development of mitigation strategies to address future drought and climatic variability.

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I am extremely pleased to be able to provide this letter of support and look forward to this partnering opportunity. Please contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Mark N. Templeton

Mant

Director

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