



August 26, 2010

Gary Taylor, Community & Regional Planning
Christopher Anderson, Climate Sciences Institute
Iowa State University
290 College Design
Ames, IA 50011

RE: Midwest Consortium for Climate Assessment (MICCA) Proposal to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Dear Mr. Taylor and Mr. Anderson:

The Iowa League of Cities represents more than 870 of the 947 cities in Iowa. Our member cities range in population from quite small (11) to quite large (198,652). All cities in Iowa have the potential to be negatively affected by projected changes in climate. Indeed, if the catastrophic flooding, ice storms, and increased frequency of tornados in recent years is scientifically-attributable to climate change, then Iowa's municipalities face an urgent need to account for climate change in local decisions. For this reason, the Iowa League of Cities supports Iowa State University's proposal – in collaboration with researchers at the University of Iowa – to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to create a Midwest Consortium for Climate Assessment.

The proposal will bridge the gap between scientists and local policy-makers on issues related to understanding the role that climate information could play in setting land use, infrastructure, emergency service and other policies, developing scientific information relevant to local decision-making, and communicating information in a manner that is usable to local governments. Cities in Iowa could benefit tremendously from methods to identify potential impacts to public investments in infrastructure resulting from the effects of climate change.

The causes of climate change can be a hot-button political issue, even at the local level; however, the *consequences* of climate change (regardless of its causes) must be addressed for the future stability and livability of our cities. The League and its members gladly accept the invitation to participate as stakeholders in the project proposed by Iowa State University.

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Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Alan Kemp
Executive Director