



August 31, 2010
Christopher J. Anderson, PhD
Scientist, Assistant Director Climate Science Initiative
Iowa State University
2021 Agronomy Hall
Ames, IA 50011
cjames@iastate.edu

Re: Midwest Consortium for Climate Assessment (MiCCA)

To Whom It May Concern:

National Crop Insurance Services, Inc. (NCIS) offers its support and cooperation for the Midwest Consortium for Climate Assessment (MiCCA). NCIS believes that the goal of enhancing the use of climate change information in evaluating the effect of weather on crops and in communicating results in a way to improve within-season crop production decisions will be beneficial to both farmers and the crop insurance industry. We also believe the team of scientists involved in the consortium is well positioned to carry out the functions and objectives of the project.

As the advisory organization responsible for the Crop-Hail insurance program, and in our supporting capacity to the crop insurance industry in working with the Federal Crop Insurance program, NCIS is deeply interested in improving our understanding of how weather and climate affect crop yields and how climate change will impact the overall risk in U.S. agriculture. In this capacity, NCIS supports the activities planned by the consortium and commits to collaborate with the consortium in carrying out these activities, some of which are:

- Increase our understanding of how drought impacts crop yields and whether these impacts have changed over time,
- Develop methods to reach a consensus for developing climate scenarios from climate projections which can be used in conjunction with crop production and land/water management scenarios to identify long-range potential for crop failure, associated economic losses, and mitigation actions, and
- Evaluate whether it is possible for crop producers to mitigate the impacts of adverse weather conditions post-planting in response to emerging technologies for seasonal forecasts.

NCIS looks forward to cooperating with the MiCCA team as it seeks to accomplish these tasks.

Sincerely,

Frank Schnapp
Vice President and Actuary, NCIS