



## Rebuild Iowa Office

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

August 20, 2009

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 as of July 2009 to coordinate rebuilding efforts 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 rank as the fifth largest natural disaster 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 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 community-local-state planning and flood plain management. To this end, RIO has begun discussions with stakeholders concerning smart growth and regional planning concepts, and will be developing a strategy this fall to move these concepts forward in the General Assembly. Additionally, RIO staff are supporting the work of the Water Resources Coordinating Council, which has been charged with developing recommendations for the upcoming legislative session concerning watershed, flood plain, and storm water management.

Each of the endeavors discussed above require data for the purposes of designing appropriate and effective policies, as well as over time as those policies are implemented and evaluated. We are working with FEMA and other partners to collect better information on flood plain boundaries, changing river dynamics, and many other issues. One of the greatest unknowns is the effect of climate change on the state of Iowa and, more specifically, on a local or regional scale. MiCCA will provide 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.

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

Respectfully,

Lt Gen Ron Dardis  
Executive Director