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| Department of Plant Sciences  University of California  Davis, CA 95616  (530) 752-1743 office  (530) 752-7482 lab  (530) 752-9659 fax  ajbloom@ucdavis.edu |  |

April 26, 2014

Dear Jeff,

I read with great interest your proposal “The Genetic Basis of Highland Adaptation in Maize” that you are submitting to NSF Plant Genome Research and will be pleased to contribute to this exciting project.

As you know, my lab with previous NSF funding has developed a unique hydroponic system in which we subject the roots of intact plants to chilling temperatures of 5°C. This inhibits water movement from roots to shoots and thus imposes rapid onset drought stress. We used this system to assess differences between tropical and temperate maize in a mapping population, and showed that maize adapted to colder temperate regions are more resistant to rhizosphere chilling.

I will share our equipment and work with your technician to train him/her how to perform additional experiments to examine the genetic basis for maize responses to rhizosphere chilling.

I look forward to a productive and successful collaboration.

Sincerely,



Arnold J. Bloom  
Professor