Dear Chief Editor,

This manuscript is an updated version of a paper that you have assigned to Dr. Todd Ringler. The paper was originally submitted to Journal of Climate; it was later transferred to the Monthly Weather Review by Dr. Eric Maloney. Dr. Maloney already obtained very helpful reviews for the paper, but since two of the reviewers suggested that the paper would be more suited for MWR, we agreed to Dr. Maloney to transfer the paper to MWR, but using the updated version revised according to the reviewers' suggestions. For some reason, however, I see on the WMR website that the transferred paper is still the initial manuscript. I am therefore re-submitting the paper with this note.

One of my co-authors, Dr. Minghua Zhang of Stony Brook University, has spoken with Dr. Todd Ringler a few days ago about this situation, and Dr. Ringler suggested that we write you to explain the circumstance and resubmit the paper.

Thank you for your assistance and consideration.

Kind regards,

He Zhang