

Ann -

Attached is a draft support letter for the National Drought Mitigation Center Proposal entitled "Developing a Predictive Capability Decision Support System for Drought Mitigation". On May 15 we received a request for a letter of support along with a request that we provide our decision by no later than May 18. The proposal we received at that time was incomplete and I went to some trouble to obtain an actual full and final proposal. After talking with Mark Svoboda at UNL and reviewing the final proposal I believe we should support it, although I am not without reservations. If there are problems, they could come from a survey in the Republican basin which would address the degree of acceptance of changes and the potential behavior change of users or a reservoir operations model they propose. I am not overly impressed with the quality of the proposal. However; we are not being asked for any money or work as part of the proposal, they are asking for federal money, and predictive tools for drought are important. The irrigation scheduling model potentially could be of use. Therefore on balance I believe it is worth supporting. We would be getting this to them later than they requested, but they simply provided insufficient information in their earlier drafts and this is as far as I feel we should go. I will separately provide you with a version of the support letter on letterhead in case you wish to sign.

Steve

Dear Steve,

Please find attached a pdf of a proposal entitled "Developing a Predictive Capability Decision Support System for Drought Mitigation" by Jae Ryu, Mark Svoboda, Cody Knutson, and Donald Wilhite of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

This is the final version of the proposal that we are planning to submit on May 18, 2007. We would appreciate it very much if you could write us a letter of support, which needs to state that the research will be useful for natural resource managers in guiding local decision makers (farmers and/or ranchers) to mitigate drought damage. This letter will be a very important component of our research proposal to NASA.

Please, note that a letter of support should be written to Ximing Cai, a faculty in the department of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign (UIUC), because he is the leading principal investigator of this project.

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact me by email or phone.  
Regards,

Jae

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Jae H. Ryu, Ph.D, PE  
Hydrologist / Drought Management Specialist  
National Drought Mitigation Center  
School of Natural Resources  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
3310 Holdrege,

702 Hardin Hall  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68583-0749 U.S.A.  
Phone: (402) 472 1483  
Fax: (402) 472 2946  
Email: [jryu2@unl.edu](mailto:jryu2@unl.edu)  
Web: <http://drought.unl.edu>

Dear Steve,

Please find attached a pdf of a proposal entitled "Developing a Predictive Capability Decision Support System for Drought Mitigation" by Jae Ryu, Mark Svoboda, Cody Knutson, and Donald Wilhite of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

As I mentioned earlier, I would like to have the Department of Natural Resources play a role in this project, including participating on the project advisory board and providing valuable feedback on the survey form that we are planning to disseminate to end users (see details in the attached proposal).

We would appreciate it very much if you could write us a letter of support, which needs to state that the research will be useful for natural resource managers in guiding local decision makers (farmers and/or ranchers) to mitigate drought damage. This letter will be a very important component of our research proposal to NASA. We are planning to submit the proposal by May 25, 2007. I am looking forward to hearing from you regarding your decision as soon as possible, but no later than May 18, 2007. I apologize for the short timeframe.

If you need a formal request for your decision by US mail or fax, please let me know. Thank you for considering my request.

Jae

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Hydrologist / Drought Management Specialist  
National Drought Mitigation Center  
School of Natural Resources  
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702 Hardin Hall  
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"Steve Gaul" <[sgaul@dnr.ne.gov](mailto:sgaul@dnr.ne.gov)>

To <[jryu2@unlnotes.unl.edu](mailto:jryu2@unlnotes.unl.edu)>

03/06/2007 03:14 PM

cc "Brian Dunnigan" <bdunnigan@dnr.ne.gov>, "Ann Bleed"  
<ableed@dnr.ne.gov>, "Steve Soberski" <ssoberski@dnr.ne.gov>  
Subject RE: Notice of Intent (NOI)

Please respond to  
<sgaul@dnr.ne.gov>

Jae -

I have reviewed the draft notice of intent you forwarded below. As I indicated in our conversation, if you wish to have the Department of Natural Resources act in some manner regarding your proposal you should specifically state what action you are seeking. If you wish a letter of support, staff participation or some other action, you need to state specifically what that is and give us sufficient time for review of the request. *I see that the notice of intent you sent appears to include the Department of Natural Resources either as an extension partner or perhaps as a co-investigator. We have not committed to such a role and I believe that inclusion is inappropriate and should be removed unless our permission is requested and subsequently received.* If you wish us to play such a role you need to specifically state what it entails and make a formal request with sufficient time for us to review it and make a decision. If that was the intent of your first e-mail, I was unable to determine that. Having a complete proposal would greatly assist any consideration we give. Best wishes.

Steve

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**From:** Jae H Ryu [mailto:jryu2@unlnotes.unl.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2007 11:10 AM  
**To:** sgaul@dnr.ne.gov  
**Cc:** jryu2@unl.edu  
**Subject:** Notice of Intent (NOI)

Steve,

Nice to talking to you over the phone.  
I attached the Notice of Intent (NOI) for your review.

Regarding time line of this project, due date of letter of intent and final submittal are 3/15/2007 and 5/25/2007, respectively

Please note that the final submittal date is May 25, NOT April 25.

I will send out a draft version of the full proposal around end of April or the first week of May.

A draft version of the full proposal will describe more details for this research including "technical details", "budget", "level of collaboration", and etc.

If you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

By the way, please call me just "Jae" as same pronunciation as "Jay", a common English name.

I am not a much formal man. \*\_\*;

Thanks,

Jae

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Jae H. Ryu, Ph.D, PE  
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National Drought Mitigation Center  
School of Natural Resources  
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Web: <http://drought.unl.edu>

Nebraska  
Department of Natural Resources

March 4, 2007

Mr. Steve Gaul  
Natural Resources Planning and Assistance  
301 Centennial Mall South  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4676

Dear Mr. Gaul,

I am writing to ask about a couple of question regarding upcoming research opportunity for the state of Nebraska. A couple of months ago, we have communicated to discuss a possible research opportunity funded by USDA. I hope you remember me.

Currently, I am establishing a proposal to target on National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The one of NASA's goals through this proposal is to enhance "existing decision support system and decision making processes through the integration of NASA Earth science products such as remotely sensed data from a radar and/or space".

As you may or may not know, the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC)-University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is maintaining "US Drought Monitor (USDMD, hereafter)", which provides a weekly overview in maps of where in the United States drought is emerging, lingering, and subsiding responding to the need for centralized drought information (<http://drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>). The current version of USDMD, however, doesn't have forecast capability of short-term and/or long-term droughts. Throughout this project, we will enhance USDMD be able to answer how drought forecast would be meaningful for local decision makers, such as farmers, ranchers, and natural resources managers in their forecast-based decision processes.

This particular project will be conducted in collaboration with University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (UIUC), and focused on two basins; one in Illinois and the other is in Nebraska.

At this moment, I am thinking that the Republican River basin would be a good candidate for this research opportunity in terms of modeling feasibility and basin size even if many complicated water issues are going on between states. Note that by knowing your concern, no political decision will be considered within the scope of this particular research.

In this project, two groups of typical end users will get involved. One is the framers in a watershed (Republican River basin, if applicable) and the other is the urban water users in the Fox River Basin that includes the major part of the Chicago area. A focusing group of end users will be formed and participate in the project. We anticipate that interactions between the end users and the project research team will be undertaken with the assistance of several extension partners, such as Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (pending) and the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC, they confirmed involvement) who coordinate root-level water users in the agriculturally-dominated basin and in the greater Chicago area, respectively.

So, I am wondering if you are interested in this opportunity or if you have any personnel in your department (Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR)), who might be interested in it. Please let me know. I expect to develop some collaboration using the proposal as a start as an investigator.

We are planning to submit Notice Of Intent (NOI) to NASA due on March 15, 2007. I hope you and DNR are interested in this research, and if you have further questions, please contact me by email or phone.

I am looking forward to hearing from you regarding your decision.  
Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jae Ryu, P.E.  
Research Associate (Hydrologist)  
National Drought Mitigation Center  
School of Natural Resources  
University of Nebraska, NE 68583  
402-472-1483  
[jryu2@unl.edu](mailto:jryu2@unl.edu)

**Gaul, Steve**

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**From:** Jae H Ryu [jryu2@unlnotes.unl.edu]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 20, 2007 4:42 PM  
**To:** Gaul, Steve  
**Cc:** Mark Svoboda  
**Subject:** A letter of Support  
**Attachments:** NASA-Nebraska-ToDNR.pdf

Dear Steve,

Please find attached a pdf of a proposal entitled "Developing a Predictive Capability Decision Support System for Drought Mitigation" by Jae Ryu, Mark Svoboda, Cody Knutson, and Donald Wilhite of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

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Jae

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5/21/2007