

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

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April 2, 2008

**TO: "Funding Considerations" [REDACTED]
RE: IISCCIW**

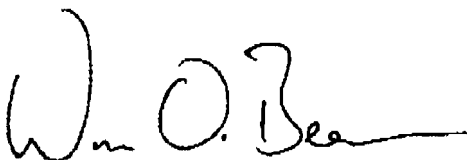
As the Chair of University of Minnesota's Department of Anthropology, I greatly appreciate the valuable efforts of Mr. Moji Agha (Mojtaba Aghamohammadi) to establish the International Institute to Study Climate Change in the Islamic World (IISCCIW). My colleagues and I see this as a sorely needed multi-university, not-for-profit global initiative, with the critical mission of addressing the urgent need for the comprehensive scientific understanding of the complex interface of the "Islamic world" with the destructive processes of global warming and climate change.

Since becoming aware of this critical project last month, I have consulted with a growing number of our university's leading scholars (including Professor Abdi Samatar, the Chair of our Geography Department) who has expressed enthusiastic interest in this innovative project. Our anthropology and geography programs both have a strong focus on environmental issues, and we are particularly interested in global climactic change both in the contemporary world and over time. The Islamic World is of particular concern to us, offering substantial opportunities for research that will be invaluable to science, and for the formulation of public policy.

If the IISCCIW can demonstrate serious prospects for its initial funding, in a reliable partnership with the [REDACTED] we are happy to entertain the very real possibility that two or more departments of the University of Minnesota including Anthropology and Geography would form the initial university "base" in the U.S. for this promising international project.

It is for the purpose of endorsing this proposal that I am writing, as a part of the "letter of funding inquiry" packet that IISCCIW is submitting to the [REDACTED]. My colleagues and I urge your serious attention and consideration of this visionary proposal. I invite you to contact me in this regard, as needed.

Sincerely,



**William O. Beeman
Professor and Chair**