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To whom it may concern:

I am writing to support the Earth System Grid Federation (ESGF) for an R&D award. As a program manager at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, I can attest to the need for the open sharing of climate data and metadata, for research, international assessments, and studies of local impacts. Many of the groups that I manage rely on ESGF for these functions.

In particular, ESGF was the vehicle for data collection and distribution for the Fifth Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP5), a scientific foundation for the next Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment (AR5). With contributions from many national and international partners, ESGF delivered a system that has made it possible for the worldwide community to access this data. New pilot projects with NASA, such as obs4MIPs, promise to bridge the gap between the observational and modeling communities and greatly improve the model evaluation process.

ESGF is of particular value to my programs through its integration in the Earth System CoG collaboration environment. Through CoG, ESGF provides data support for community-based activities such as the National Climate Predictions and Projections (NCP) Platform, which provides information about the local and regional climate, an atmospheric Dynamical Core Model Intercomparison Project (DCMIP), and a Downscaling Intercomparison Project, hosted by NCP, to be held this summer.

NOAA programs look forward to working with the ESGF effort as it evolves and hope that the team will be recognized for their contribution to the climate community.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald E. Anderson, Jr." in a cursive style.

Donald E. Anderson, Jr.