

TO: Chris Hamilton, Jeff Jacobsend

CC: Cory Forbes

FROM: Karen Plaut  
Sr. Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Affairs  
Director, Ag Experiment Station

DATE: September 26, 2016

RE: New Multi-state NCDC

I am pleased to write a letter of support for a new NCDC focusing on educational efforts on food, energy and water (FEW) that is being developed by Dr Cory Forbes at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. The proposal to form a NCDC to develop a program that enhances science literacy around food, energy and water is timely and essential to our success in providing science based information to the public, policy makers etc. The ability to bring research based educational methods to FEW issues to enhance effectiveness of messaging and enhance science literacy is critical to the future. Not only will this group create a network around the North Central region and nationally, they also have the potential for external funding in the future. Since FEW issues are receiving national prominence, it is quite clear that there may be some distinct educational opportunities where the expertise of this group can be leveraged to enhance external funding and to create a national model for education and improving literacy on critical issues for the future. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at: [kplaut@purdue.edu](mailto:kplaut@purdue.edu)