



Dear Representative,

On behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service (NWS), National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), Environmental Modeling Center (EMC), Regional Air Quality Modeling, I am writing to express strong support for the proposal titled “Development of two-way coupling between fire behavior modeling with dynamic biomass burning emissions and air quality within the UFS”.

NOAA/NWS/NCEP/EMC and Dr. Pedro A. Jimenez Munoz’s group at the NSF National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) have a long-standing collaborative history focused on advancing the National Air Quality Forecasting Capability (NAQFC) and delivering valuable numerical guidance for air quality forecasting across the nation. Our joint efforts span a range of initiatives, including the development and enhancement of the UFS-based online air quality prediction system, fire behavior and emissions modeling.

Dr. Jimenez Munoz’s proposal is well-aligned with NOAA’s mission to advance air quality forecasting through innovative approaches that better simulate wildfire emissions and capture the interactions between weather, air quality, and atmospheric chemistry. This proposal’s goals to enhance model performance and increase the precision of air quality forecasts are in close alignment with our priorities at EMC. Should this proposal be funded, EMC will collaborate with Dr. Jimenez Munoz’s team as part of our commitment to adopting new approaches, though no funding from this proposal will be allocated to support EMC’s activities.

Our potential collaborative efforts may include:

- Providing updates and guidance on the use of NOAA’s UFS-based online air quality prediction system.
- Offering operational NAQFC input/output files necessary for testing fire behavior interactions with meteorology and atmospheric chemistry, to further refine NAQFC forecast products.
- Supporting the preparation and submission of publications and presentations to disseminate project findings.

These joint activities between EMC and Dr. Jimenez Munoz’s team will help advance NOAA’s UFS-AQM online systems, significantly improving NAQFC forecast products and expanding their utility for providing timely and accurate air quality guidance to the public.

We are enthusiastic about this opportunity to collaborate with NSF NCAR on the development of this two-way coupling model, which promises to enhance NAQFC forecast products further. We strongly encourage its consideration for funding.

Sincerely,

Jianping Huang, Ph.D.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Weather Service/National Centers for Environmental Prediction  
Environmental Modeling Center (EMC)