



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Department of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

10 April 2025

Dear Members of the Award Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that I nominate Mr. Logan Bundy, Ph.D. candidate at Northern Illinois University, for the American Association of State Climatologists (AASC) New Scientist Award in Applied Climatology. Logan exemplifies the highest standards of scholarship, creativity, and scientific rigor, making him an exceptional candidate for this prestigious honor.

Logan is, without question, the most outstanding Ph.D. student I have mentored during my academic career. His productivity, quality of research, and dedication to applied climatology are unmatched, already resulting in nearly a dozen peer-reviewed publications at this early stage of his career. Logan's research consistently bridges meteorological and climatological insights to tangible agricultural impacts, addressing critical societal challenges in the agricultural sector.

Notably, Logan's work on "Insured Corn Losses in the United States from Weather and Climate Perils" (Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology, 2022) provides essential insights into the vulnerabilities and economic implications of climatic events on corn production—a critical issue for food security and economic stability. His analytical prowess is further exemplified by his innovative study "Tropical cyclone impacts on crop condition ratings and yield in the Coastal Southern United States" (Agricultural and Forest Meteorology, 2023), where he skillfully connected tropical cyclone dynamics with agricultural productivity, offering significant advances in predicting crop risks and mitigation strategies.

Logan's scholarly depth is also evident in his comprehensive evaluation presented in "An assessment of USDA corn condition ratings across the US Corn Belt" (Agronomy Journal, 2022), and his authoritative study "United States crop conditions: 1986–2022" (Agronomy Journal, 2024), where he synthesized decades of agricultural data to discern critical trends and vulnerabilities in crop health across the United States. Additionally, his recent publication, "On the quality of USDA gridded crop condition layers" (Agrosystems, Geosciences & Environment, 2025), significantly advances the accuracy and reliability of USDA data, enhancing their applicability for stakeholders nationwide (I have attached this manuscript to the nomination). Honestly, it was difficult to choose which of his notable publications to include in this nomination packet!

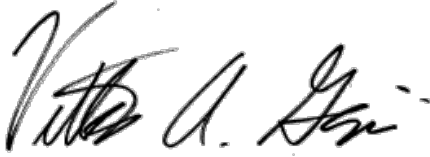
Beyond these impressive academic accomplishments, Logan consistently demonstrates leadership and a strong commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration, positioning him as a future leader in applied climatology. His passion, coupled with his exceptional analytical capabilities and

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innovative approaches, sets him apart and makes him highly deserving of recognition by the AASC.

Thank you for considering this nomination. I am confident that Logan Bundy will continue to make impactful contributions to our field, furthering the mission and values championed by the American Association of State Climatologists.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vittorio A. Gensini". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Vittorio" being more prominent.

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