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Norwegian Institute for Air Research
Cathrine Lund Myhre
Department of Atmospheric and Climate Research
P.O. Box 100
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Dear Ms Cathrine Lund Myhre

Support letter for THAW: *"Trends and Hazards in Arctic Warming: Climate change and greenhouse gas emissions from Arctic permafrost regions"*

I understand that a consortium will be applying for a grant to study the effects of climate change on greenhouse gas emissions from Arctic regions. This is one of the major questions that concerns the cryosphere over the next 50 years. There are teams of researchers studying the effect of thawing permafrost on terrain integrity, and other teams studying the carbon flux from permafrost terrain. To the best of my knowledge, no group is trying to link these two processes. In terms of the effects of climate change on the earth system, the potential release of carbon, now stored in permafrost, is potentially catastrophic.

I will look forward with interest to the results of this research. You should know that this question is a key aspect of ecosystem stability, and the first effects will become evident in the next two or three decades.

Yours sincerely

C.R. Burn
Professor of Geography
NSERC Northern Research Chair