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Dear Dr. Cook,

We have made a further revision of our manuscript based on additional comments from new reviewer #1. As requested by new reviewer #1, a scatter plot of the TNI versus the number of intense tornadoes is added in the revised manuscript (new Figure 3). Additionally, a sentence is added to indicate that the overall correlation between the TNI and tornadic environments is weak. On his/her comment #2, we already performed ranking correlation analysis using Spearman's rho method and found an overall weak correlation between the TNI and the number of intense U.S. tornadoes in our previous revision. We hope that new reviewer #1's major concern is adequately addressed in our newly revised manuscript.

Additionally, Table 5 is now removed to make the manuscript more concise and focused. Some minor editorial changes are done to improve the quality of the manuscript.

Sincerely yours,

Sang-Ki Lee