

The Honorable Tim Gallaudet. PhD
Rear Admiral, US Navy (ret)
Former Acting NOAA Administrator and
Oceanographer of the Navy



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Leadership for the 21st Century

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Frank Lucas, Chairman
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Lofgren

I am writing to provide my support for H.R. 6093, the Weather Act Reauthorization Act of 2024. When I was appointed as the acting Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 2017, I was delighted to oversee the implementation of the excellent provisions of the original Weather Act, and I was more thrilled to see that legislation improved with the Weather Act reauthorization of 2019. The current draft of H.R. 6093 makes even further progress still.

There are a few aspects of H.R. 6093 that I would like to specifically commend:

- Continuing the Earth Prediction Innovation Center (EPIC) is a welcome element because the program continues to accelerate research to operations and leverages the full power of the American Weather Enterprise.
- I am also pleased that the satellite architecture planning that I supported at NOAA remains in place as that effort is realizing the vast potential of the U.S. space industry.
- The use of uncrewed activities for observations is another important provision in view of the efficiency and effectiveness of drones, which was why I established the NOAA Uncrewed Systems Operations Center in 2020.
- The coastal flooding and storm surge forecast improvement program is a vital addition that will directly address the increase in flooding frequency in many American coastal communities.
- Establishing the Office of Commercial Data Acquisitions and continuing the Commercial Data Pilot Program are critical components that will realize the full potential of the rapidly expanding commercial ocean, weather, and climate data and services sector.

I am confident that the Weather Act Reauthorization Act of 2024 will supercharge NOAA's public safety mission. I commend your leadership and that hard work of your staffs in developing this outstanding piece of legislation which will greatly benefit the nation's economic, national, and natural security.

With gratitude and respect,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T.C. Gallaudet', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

T.C. Gallaudet