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April 26, 2024

The Honorable Frank Lucas, Chairman
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Lofgren,

I am writing to offer my support for H.R. 6093, the Weather Act Reauthorization Act of 2023. As a former Deputy Goal Lead for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Senior Manager of the Tsunami, Science & Technology Infusion, and other key programs with the National Weather Service (NWS) and having also served as the Manager for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Disaster Program and Wildfire Program, I have a valued perspective that serves America's weather enterprise. I would also like to add as a Senior Advisor to the Western Fire Chiefs Association and the Earth Fire Alliance, I also see the significance of this Act from the perspective of operational end users and philanthropy partners.

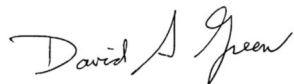
NOAA is a mission-driven agency, with critical operational authorities and authorizations to meet the needs of people, communities and organizations facing the perils to life, livelihoods, and economies. The access, use and utility of timely data, predictive scenarios and forecasts enable informed decision making and guides action. The continuity of NOAA's contribution and the ongoing commitment to strengthen services and coordinate with other partners is vital to our national interests.

With the challenges and opportunities facing our society it is urgent that this reauthorization enable the pivot away from response to more anticipatory action and the tools needed to thrive in the face of changing environmental perils with greater economic, security and cultural resilience. This reauthorization recognizes investments and partnerships that provide greater return-on-resilience. The reauthorization act, while not yet comprehensive, supports this pivot and new types of partnerships and policies required among public-private, community, philanthropy, and individuals. As the Senior Advisor to the Western Fire Chiefs Association and to the Earth Fire Alliance, I note for example that there is no mention of the changing and growing membership of the weather enterprise itself. With all the current policy efforts regarding wildfire, it seems the Act should encompass collaborative research networks and operations for improved wildfire management.

support the language of the reauthorization to maintain a fleet of space-based observation platforms but point out the glaring exclusion of philanthropy who are investing in gap-filling science and technology including next generation satellite constellations with free and open data. There is in fact a real opportunity in the era of open-source science that nongovernmental and nonprofits are focusing investment to reduce the risk and fund early development, testing and transition of critical observing systems. There is value in interpretation of this reauthorization to encourage NOAA and other agencies to leverage the dynamic nature of the expanding enterprise and also harness investments, workforce expansion, and economic growth for sustainable, durable and continuity pathways. Similarly, the reauthorization should be implemented to leverage many nonprofits and philanthropies as well as private sector and academic consortia stepping up in the areas of data commons, geospatial data centers, and intelligence centers to meet the needs of discovery, standardization, and interoperability of authoritative data and meta data.

The Weather Act Reauthorization Act enables the urgent collaborations needed across America's expanding weather enterprise. This legislation will allow a more agile and entrepreneurial NOAA to achieve more impactful outcomes. I commend you, our Committee Members, and dedicated staff for your commitments to these government responsibilities, and for working with NOAA and jointly with enterprise partners to achieve substantive results. I look forward to further Congressional action on this legislation and to its swift passage into law.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David S Green". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely".

Dr. David S Green

Principal, Green Resilience Insights

Senior Advisor, Western Fire Chiefs Association and Earth Fire Alliance