



April 29, 2024

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

Dear Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Lofgren,

I am writing to offer my and my organization's support for H.R. 6093, the Weather Act Reauthorization Act of 2023. As the Chief Scientist for Demex and the Chairman of the American Meteorological Society's Forum on Climate Linked Economics, and after nearly 30 years of my career spanning the public and private sectors from The Weather Channel to Scripps Institution of Oceanography to Citadel, I have broad perspective on America's weather enterprise.

NOAA is the key driver for many of this country's pivotal economic engines. The insurance industry alone reports nearly \$1.4 Trillion in economic transfer from insurance companies to policy-holders since 2000, all linked to extreme weather ([Gallagher Re](#)). Insurance drives economic growth by expediting financial recovery. Insurance claims payments benefit not only those directly affected by loss, but others as well. For example, the economic transfer of claims payments ends up with auto repair shops and home improvement retailers to fix cars, and rebuild homes. By supporting these businesses, economic growth is further stimulated ([Insurance Information Institute](#)). Payments to policyholders in 2023 alone and isolated to only the impact from severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, and hail mounted to \$70-Billion in this country ([according to Aon](#)). In a recent interview with [Bloomberg](#), Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen acknowledged that extreme weather events are causing insurers to raise rates on homeowners with some firms withdrawing entirely from offering coverage in areas deemed as high risk.

NOAA's various centers, notably the National Centers for Environmental Information, the National Hurricane Center, and the Storm Prediction Center provide a large majority of information and intelligence that underly decision-making across the insurance industry. However, NOAA cannot undertake this mission alone. Americans are better served when all components of the American weather enterprise come together to work toward common goals. The Weather Act of 2017 established programs to improve partnerships with private industry and collaboration with academia and international partners. Programs that were started in 2017 have seen tremendous success.

The Weather Act Reauthorization Act builds on those successes and offers improvements for further collaboration with America's weather enterprise. I am confident that this legislation will empower not only NOAA but also the broader economy of the United States to reach new heights. I look forward to further Congressional action on this legislation and to its swift passage into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Bennett".

Stephen Bennett, JD