NATIONAL MESONET

September 4, 2025

The Honorable Brian Babin
Chairman
House Science, Space, and Technology Committee
2321 Rayburn House Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member
House Science, Space, and Technology Committee
2321 Rayburn House Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Babin and Ranking Member Lofgren;

As a diverse coalition of private sector, local government, and academic operators of weather observation systems, we write to strongly endorse H.R. 5089, the Weather Act Reauthorization Act of 2025. We are heartened that the Committee continues to focus on supporting the efforts of federal forecasters and local emergency managers to help us become a more "Weather-Ready Nation" in the face of increased severe weather threats.

This new Act builds on the sturdy foundation of the Committee's previous work in the 115th Congress – the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act (Weather Act), which was the first significant weather legislation since the authorization of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) itself. The Weather Act created a framework for NOAA to utilize more commercial space-based data and has led to the further development of modeling and predictive infrastructure. The Act also importantly emphasized the need for NOAA and the National Weather Service (NWS) to test and integrate new methods of communication to warn the public in severe weather events, and as we saw with the recent flooding tragedy in Texas, that work remains of great importance.

Severe weather warnings are also improved when you have more data and observations, and under your leadership, the Committee and the Congress have effectively pushed NOAA and the NWS to increasingly leverage and embrace commercial sources of weather data to improve warnings as well as numerical weather prediction models. We are pleased to see that H.R. 5089 specifically endorses NOAA and the NWS's continued leveraging of non-federal ground- based, ocean-based, and air-based weather observations by including an authorization for the National Mesonet Program (NMP).

The Program was established by the NWS in 2009 with the urging and support of Congress, and its initial focus was on filling observation "gaps" and providing more granular, local-scale ground-based observations that are especially important for severe weather warnings. Over time, the program has steadily grown to include more than 56 network operators (see attached listing) and today delivers to NOAA additional critical observations in the boundary layer and coastal areas that also vastly improves the precision and reliability of numerical weather prediction forecasts. NMP data is also widely used outside of the NWS for agriculture, wildfire mitigation, renewable energy generation, drought monitoring, and more, all with tangible benefits for businesses and taxpayers. We believe that H.R. 5089's endorsement of future growth of the NMP will help facilitate the goal of "eliminating gaps in weather observation data by States and regions of the United States."

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The 2017 Weather Act's benefits were immediate and significant, but now the time is right for the Committee and Congress to undertake reauthorization of the Act with the proposed changes. The undersigned members of the National Mesonet Leadership Team and Advisory Board strongly endorse H.R. 5089 and encourage the full House and Senate to act in all haste to move the bill through both chambers and to the President's desk. Lastly, we would again like to thank you for your continued leadership on weather science and forecasting issues.

Sincerely,

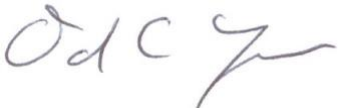
The National Mesonet Leadership Team and Advisory Board

National Mesonet Program Leadership Team

Ashish Raval
Synoptic Data PBC

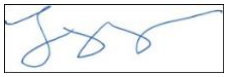
James King
KBR

Mark Miller
Advanced Environmental Monitoring.

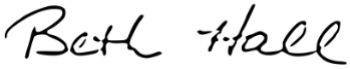


Daniel "Buck" Lyons
WeatherFlow

National Mesonet Program Advisory Board



Dr. June Wang
University at Albany



Dr. Beth Hall
Purdue University

Dr. Paul Gayes
Coastal Carolina University

Benjamin Miller
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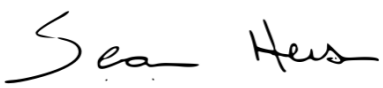

Sean Heuser
North Carolina State University

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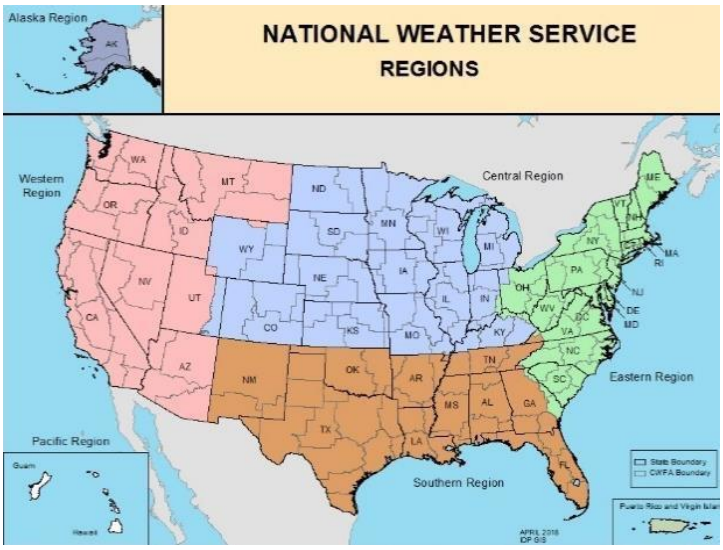
WindBorne Systems



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