

April 25, 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 this letter to offer my support for U.S. House of Representatives (H.R.) 6093, the Weather Act Reauthorization Act of 2023. I am a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) and have worked in the weather enterprise for over 30 years, both in academia and industry. For several years, I chaired the AMS Board on Enterprise Economic Development (BEED), which runs the AMS Washington Forum each spring to bring together Congressional staffers, federal agency leads, and cross-sector representatives of the weather enterprise to discuss both weather-related policy and implementation of solutions.

It is hard to imagine an aspect of life or commerce in America that is not affected in some significant way by weather. As such, it provides a unique opportunity for Congress to find and demonstrate common ground for bipartisan support, as demonstrated by the Weather Act of 2017. In my long-standing engagement with this domain, I believe the past several years have been the most impactful I have ever seen, and much of that is owed to that ground-breaking legislation. From enabling NOAA to begin down the path of leveraging innovative new commercial observation capabilities, to advancing research of forecasting solutions for critical weather events, to accelerating research-to-operations with the Earth Prediction Innovation Center (EPIC), the Weather Act of 2017 has given NOAA vital resources for improved protection of life, property, and economic prosperity. I have seen firsthand how EPIC in particular has energized the research community with unprecedented ability to participate in the process of improving our weather models and forecasts.

All of that said, the work is not done. Our weather patterns continue to evolve, and we must evolve with them. In 2023 alone, the United States experienced 28 separate weather-related disasters totaling over \$90B in damages and at least 492 direct or indirect fatalities. In parallel with these challenges, the National Weather Service is rightly evolving its business model to address the needs of both the modern workforce and the communities it serves. Section 101 of the H.R. 6093 Weather Act Reauthorization Act recognizes this need through incorporation of the vision for “nimble, flexible, and mobile methods” to provide “impact-based decision support services” to our nation. I applaud you and your staff for your leadership and commitment to this new legislation, and I am excited to follow its advancement into law, which will continue and grow NOAA’s momentum moving into the future.

Respectfully,  
Shawn W. Miller, PhD



Fellow, American Meteorological Society