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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. As a scientist, professor, the director of the University System of Maryland's Marine Estuarine Environmental Sciences graduate program, assistant director of the UMD undergraduate program in Atmospheric and Oceanic Science, and a faculty fellow in the Smith School of Business Smith Enterprise Risk Consortium, I have a multi-field perspective of the impact of the U.S. weather enterprise.

NOAA is a unique agency, tasked with critical government missions that Americans rely on for personal safety and to protect our economy. More companies are focusing resources on understanding how long-term changes in weather patterns impact supply chains, insurance costs, the ability to hire and retain workers, etc. Timely and accurate weather information is vital to ensure economic security and stability, national safety, and to build resilient communities that adapt to long-term weather changes. NOAA's importance cannot be understated.

The Weather Act of 2017 established programs to improve NOAA partnerships with private industry, academia, with U.S. state and other federal agencies, and with international partners. This effort has been a tremendous success. Commercial weather data is used by NOAA to improve weather forecasts, faculty and students in academic programs are an integral part of ongoing improvements to Earth-system models, and decision makers and emergency managers at state and local levels look to NOAA for guidance when environmental disasters occur.

The H.R. 6093 Weather Act Reauthorization Act builds on the successes of the existing law and improves the mechanisms for further collaborations with the U.S. weather enterprise. I commend you, your H.R. Committee Members, and dedicated staff who have enabled this Act and for your continued support of such crucially critical government responsibility. NOAA's ability to secure our future rests upon reauthorization.

Sincerely,

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Associate Professor

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