

April 28, 2024

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

Dear Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Lofgren:

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic support for H.R. 6093, The Weather Act Reauthorization bill written by your committee. As a current and former advisor to NOAA on many aspects of weather and climate prediction, and as a former President of the American Meteorological Society, I have experience in helping NOAA improve its weather forecasting services and with interacting with all sectors of the U.S. weather, water and climate community.

The U.S. weather enterprise is growing and evolving rapidly, most notably in the private sector. This sector is no longer just providing value-added products but contributing throughout the value chain, providing, e.g., new observing systems and A.I. models. However, NOAA must remain the premier source of weather information to the public, so that all citizens have equal access to accurate, timely and trustworthy forecasts, watches and warnings. But NOAA also must be able to take advantage of academic and private sector developments to enhance their products and services. American citizens benefit most when all sectors of the weather enterprise work together toward common goals.

The Weather Act of 2017 stimulated progress in cooperation between the enterprise sectors, especially with respect to increasing new observational data that enhances weather forecasting skill. The new EPIC program also began, facilitating collaborations between academia and other government labs that will improve numerical forecasting models on all scales. Actions were also taken to improve NOAA's communication with emergency managers and the general public.

The new Weather Act (H.R. 6093) continues to support and will build upon the above activities. It will help NOAA sustain valuable programs and be agile to adaptation of new scientific developments. For example, it will enable addition of even more observations to inform first responders and forecasting models, and will support a badly needed university consortium on data assimilation.

Having lived in Oklahoma the past 45 years, I see almost every day the value of the weather enterprise to keeping our citizens forewarned and safe. Given new ongoing technological advances, this is no time to stand still; - it is still very possible to improve NOAA products and services into the future – and H.R. 6093 will help enable such progress. I thank you, your Committee and staff for developing this reauthorization bill and I look forward to positive Congressional action on this legislation.

Sincerely,
Fred Carr
Dr. Frederick H. Carr
McCasland Presidential Professor Emeritus
School of Meteorology, University of Oklahoma
President of the American Meteorological Society (2016)