



THE WEATHER  
COALITION

June 4, 2004

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf  
Chairman  
Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Subcommittee  
H-309 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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*Executive Vice President*  
The Weather Channel

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**Jeremy Usher**  
*President and CEO*  
Weathernews, Inc.

Dear Chairman Wolf:

On behalf of the Weather Coalition, we are writing to urge you, in your upcoming work with the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Subcommittee, to pay particular attention to two very important research and education programs in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) FY05 budget. The Weather Coalition, a diverse group of representatives from industry, academia, science and education consortia and a national lab, is committed to improving the capabilities of the country's weather prediction and warning capabilities. The results will be enhanced competitiveness for U.S. industry, improved support for national defense, and increased protection of life and property. The membership list of the Weather Coalition is attached.

Of particular concern to us are NOAA's extramural research and education programs, which are threatened to be cut in the President's request. The Climate and Global Change Program, within NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric and Research (OAR), is in jeopardy of being reduced almost \$10 million to partially offset the proposed increase for Climate Observation and Services. The Climate and Global Change Program, which has been flat funded for the past five years, is of critical importance to the external atmospheric sciences community; these are the groups that conduct the basic research and education programs that support NOAA's operational mission. ***To continue this very important grants program, I urge you to restore Climate and Global Change FY05 funding to the FY04 enacted level of \$69.66 million.***

The other important program to the Weather Coalition we'd like to call your attention to is the U.S. Weather Research Program (USWRP), an interagency program dedicated to making forecasts of high-impact weather, such as tornadoes and hurricanes, more specific, accurate, and reliable. The goal of this program is to move the results of basic research quickly into operations. Funding will be dedicated to a competitive grant process that leverages the results that can be achieved, and will enhance THORPEX, a program focused on making 7-14 day forecasts as reliable and useful as are current 2-3 day forecasts. ***While the request is down from the FY04 level of \$7 million, I urge you to support, at a minimum, the FY05 request for USWRP of \$5.2 million.***

We understand you and your colleagues are working with challenging allocations this year, but believe that the programs described here are of such value at such low cost, that they are worth bringing to your special attention.

Thank you for your continued good work on the Appropriations Committee, and for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Ray Ban  
Executive Vice President  
The Weather Channel, Inc.

John Snow  
Director  
The Oklahoma Weather Center

cc: Members of the House Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Subcommittee  
Mike Ringler

attachment

% Cynthia Schmidt  
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