



THE WEATHER
COALITION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

September 20, 2005

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The Weather Channel

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The Honorable Frank Wolf

Chairman

Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice, and Commerce, and Related Agencies

Committee on Appropriations

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

Facsimile: (202) 225-7245

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As the co-chairs of the Weather Coalition, we write to express our strong support for the extraordinary work of NOAA, its National Weather Service, the National Hurricane Center, and the entire weather enterprise for everything they did to accurately predict the timing and location of Hurricane Katrina's landfall. With all that has been said and written about this unprecedented storm and its impact on the residents of the Gulf coast, it is important for the Congress to remember that the forecasts the weather enterprise produced and put into the hands of local, state, regional, and national emergency management personnel saved many thousands of lives.

The Weather Coalition has always believed that expanded research collaborations involving industry, state and local governments, and academia would result in improvements in weather prediction and warning capabilities. That the National Hurricane Center and their colleagues throughout the entire weather enterprise were able to predict the behavior of Hurricane Katrina reflects extraordinary professionalism and expertise, but it is also the result of the steady sustained investment this nation has made in the research and development enterprise that underpins NOAA, the weather enterprise, and other mission agencies.

This sustained investment in the research capabilities of both public and private entities in the atmospheric and ocean sciences, satellite, radar and other observing systems, mathematics, software development, computational science, computer simulation, data management and analysis, and advancements in measurement technologies, computational modeling and high performance computing -- as well as the education and training of the technical work force to use all this new knowledge -- resulted in a capability that saved thousands of lives on Monday August 29th when Katrina made landfall and devastated coastal and inland communities throughout the Gulf coast.

% Cynthia Schmidt
P.O. Box 3000
Boulder, CO 80307-3000
303-497-2107

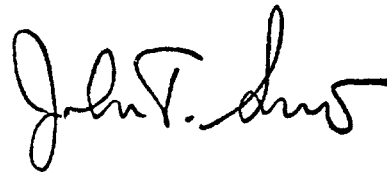
The Congress and the Administration are always looking for evidence that the expenditure of scarce public resources for research will yield applications that provide tangible benefits for the taxpayer. The Weather Coalition submits that this situation provides ample evidence to satisfy that performance objective.

As you and your colleagues grapple with the difficult budget decisions remaining for fiscal year 2006 and beyond, we ask you to provide the federal research and development programs – especially the weather R&D programs -- under your subcommittee's jurisdiction with the priority support they and the nation deserve.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Raymond J. Ban, consisting of stylized initials 'RJB'.

Raymond J. Ban
Executive Vice President
The Weather Channel®

Handwritten signature of John T. Snow, written in cursive.

John T. Snow
Director, Oklahoma Weather Center
and Dean, College of Geosciences at
The University of Oklahoma

Co-Chairs of the Weather Coalition

Cc: Congressman Allan Mollohan