



**The Elections Are Over—What Next?
Advice to the New Administration and Congress: Actions to Make our Nation
Resilient to Severe Weather and Climate Change**

Town Hall Meeting

AMS Annual Meeting

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

12:15–1:30 pm

Phoenix Convention Center, Room 131B

The Weather Coalition (www.weathercoalition.org), an advocacy group composed of members from industry, academia, and scientific and professional associations; and the AMS Commission on the Weather and Climate Enterprise will hold a Town Hall Meeting to discuss community priorities and advocacy strategies for the new Administration and 111th Congress.

The devastating impacts of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008 provide only the most recent reminder of how vulnerable our society is to the effects of catastrophic storms. And estimates of the speed at which the climate is changing have increased since the most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was issued. This creates an even more urgent need for useful information at regional and local levels for those making decisions that will affect water and power usage, coastal development, environmental management, food production and other life-sustaining activities. A number of organizations, with a variety of perspectives, have produced a series of recommendations regarding issues of resiliency for the new Administration and the next Congress (www.ucar.edu/td). This town hall will address how the community can continue to have its voice heard on these issues and what the prospects appear to be for passing related legislation in the 111th Congress.

Joe Friday, AMS Commission on the Weather and Climate Enterprise, will moderate the discussion. Speakers are:

- Jack Fellows, UCAR, will update the community on the transition document and how it has been received by the transition team of the new Administration;
- Paul Higgins, AMS, will synthesize information about climate-related bills and the prospects for the legislation advancing in the new Congress;
- Eric Barron, NCAR, will highlight the National Climate Services session to follow this town hall;
- John Snow, University of Oklahoma, will provide a status report on weather-related issues focusing on the prospects for hurricane legislation.

This Town Hall is sponsored by the Weather Coalition and the AMS Commission on the Weather and Climate Enterprise.

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