

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 15, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Chair Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We write to request robust funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) next-generation weather prediction systems as part of any disaster supplemental funding agreement and in the final FY 2025 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. We specifically request robust funding for the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) and National Weather Service (NWS). We also ask you to prioritize passing into law through a supplemental package or any other means the **Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act Reauthorization Act of 2023**, which provides NOAA a long-term vision and direction and passed the House with widespread bipartisan support earlier this year.

Alongside community disaster relief, we must invest in innovations to better forecast, communicate, and prepare for severe weather impacts so these new tools can become operational before the next disaster. Stronger science for forecasting severe weather and communicating impacts will protect communities and save lives. Hurricane Helene, Milton, and Francine's devastation in Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Virginia, and North Carolina underscore the importance of coupled Earth system models that analyze interactions between temperatures, rainfall, and land for preparedness. Helene's catastrophic inland flooding echoes recent inundations in Vermont, New Hampshire, West Virginia, and Kentucky. Tragic ice storms in Oregon and Texas, devastating wildfires in Hawai'i, Alaska, Colorado, Washington, Montana, and New Mexico, as well as unprecedented tornado outbreaks in Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Missouri emphasize

the need across the country to make faster, more reliable weather predictions to better prepare for disasters.

NOAA is spearheading innovations behind our nation's next-generation weather forecasts, including high-resolution models, AI-driven prediction and AI-ready data, and coupled atmosphere, land, and ocean systems that can significantly improve the prediction of varied weather phenomena, including windstorms, wildfires, ice storms, and atmospheric rivers. NOAA's Precipitation Prediction Grand Challenge is developing fully coupled Earth system models to make more reliable and timely precipitation forecasts while the Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program continues to improve Atlantic hurricane forecasts.

Robust investment in weather technology infrastructure is crucial for establishing initial conditions for improving the nation's weather forecasting abilities. NOAA needs significantly greater resources for its data assimilation systems, including for the Joint Effort for Data assimilation Integration (JEDI) developed by the Joint Center for Satellite Data Assimilation (JCSDA), which is crucial for establishing initial conditions for weather models and will dramatically boost forecast accuracy for all weather conditions. Funding for the next generation of radar technology, including phased array radar research and the NWS' Radar Next acquisition program, is especially important for severe weather and difficult-to-predict highly localized weather systems such as tornadoes and ice storms. NOAA also needs support to move its forecasting software infrastructure, the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System, to the cloud so more forecasters have access to the best available information.

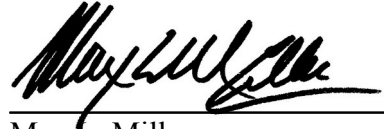
NOAA OAR is a nationwide network of Sea Grant programs, research labs, Cooperative Institutes, and other experts working to develop actionable weather insights, particularly for communities affected by disasters. By making proactive investments in these programs, we can better communicate local weather risks. This work directly benefits our communities, fishermen, farmers, ranchers, and small businesses who need local data to rebuild and minimize future risks.

As communities across the country rebuild, we must also invest in preparedness. We urge you to include a down payment on NOAA's next-generation weather systems alongside community recovery funding in a supplemental appropriations package and in FY 25 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations. Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working with you as the appropriations process continues.

Sincerely,



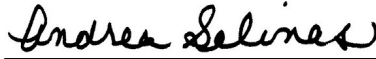
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



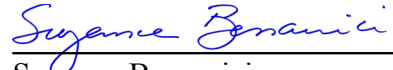
Max L. Miller
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
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Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



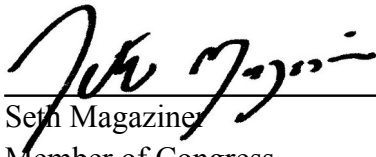
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Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
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Bill Foster
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Randy Feenstra
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Jared Huffman
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Joe Neguse
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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



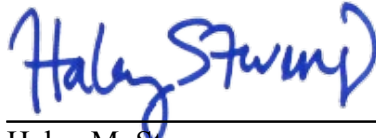
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Troy Carter
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Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



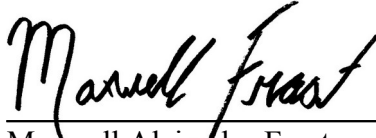
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Jeff Jackson
Member of Congress



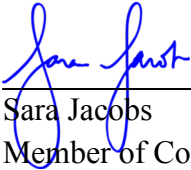
Sylvia R. Garcia
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Gabe Amo
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Sara Jacobs
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