

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2306

To provide for the establishment of a National Climate Service, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 7, 2009

Mr. DICKS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a National Climate Service, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Climate Serv-
5 ice Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Weather, climate change, and climate varia-
9 bility affect public safety, environmental services and
10 security, human health, agriculture, energy use,

1 water resources, and other factors vital to national
2 security and human welfare.

3 (2) Climate forecasts create opportunities for
4 society to prepare, potentially reducing the costs of
5 climate-related events, as well as serving national
6 needs related to enhancing economic growth, man-
7 aging risk, protecting life and property, and pro-
8 moting environmental stewardship.

9 (3) Information on predicted climate and cli-
10 mate impacts is not being fully disseminated or used
11 well, despite the increasing predictability of climate.

12 (4) The United States lacks adequate research,
13 infrastructure, and coordinated outreach and com-
14 munication mechanisms to meet national climate
15 monitoring, prediction, and decision support needs
16 for adapting to and mitigating the impacts of cli-
17 mate change and climate variability.

18 (5) Increasing societal resilience to climate im-
19 pacts requires understanding climate trends and
20 variations as well as possible, understanding the im-
21 pacts of climate on human and nonhuman systems,
22 providing decision-relevant tools based on that infor-
23 mation, and increasing society's capacity to act on
24 that information.

1 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

2 It is the purpose of this Act to establish a National
3 Climate Service that will assist the Nation and the world
4 in understanding, anticipating, and responding to climate,
5 climate change, and climate variability and their impacts
6 and implications. The Service shall inform the public
7 through the sustained production and delivery of authori-
8 tative, timely, useful information about impacts on local,
9 State, regional, tribal, national, and global scales. The
10 Service shall be user-centric, by ensuring that the informa-
11 tion is accessible, consistent with users' ability to respond,
12 and based on user needs and limitations. The Service shall
13 provide such usable information through a sustained net-
14 work of observations, modeling, and research activities.

15 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL CLIMATE SERVICE.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce
18 shall establish within the Climate Program Office of
19 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
20 tion a National Climate Service (in this Act referred
21 to as the “Service”) not later than one year after
22 the date of enactment of this Act. The Service shall
23 include a national center and a network of regional
24 and local facilities for operational climate observa-
25 tion, modeling, and research.

1 (2) GENERAL PURPOSE.—The Service shall in-
2 form the public through the sustained production
3 and delivery of authoritative, timely, useful informa-
4 tion about impacts on local, State, regional, tribal,
5 national, and global scales.

6 (3) SPECIFIC SERVICES.—The Service, at min-
7 imum, shall—

8 (A) serve as a clearinghouse and technical
9 access point to stakeholders for regionally and
10 nationally relevant information on climate, cli-
11 mate impacts, and adaptation, developing com-
12 prehensive databases of information relevant to
13 specific regional and national stakeholder needs;

14 (B) provide education on climate impacts,
15 vulnerabilities, and application of climate infor-
16 mation in decisionmaking;

17 (C) design decision-support tools that fa-
18 cilitate use of climate information in stake-
19 holders' near-term operations and long-term
20 planning

21 (D) facilitate user access to climate and
22 climate impacts experts for technical assistance
23 in use of climate information and to inform the
24 climate forecast community of their information
25 needs;

1 (E) provide researcher, modeler, and obser-
2 vations experts access to users to help guide di-
3 rection of research, modeling, and observation
4 activities; and

5 (F) propose and evaluate adaptation strat-
6 egies for climate variability and change.

7 (4) SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS.—The Service, at
8 minimum, shall—

9 (A) integrate global, national, and regional
10 observations to produce information and assess-
11 ments of use to stakeholders and researchers;

12 (B) develop climate models for decision
13 support;

14 (C) perform basic and applied research on
15 climate dynamics and impacts relevant to stake-
16 holder interests;

17 (D) create and maintain an operational de-
18 livery system and facilitate transition of new cli-
19 mate applications products to Service member
20 agencies;

21 (E) establish an atmospheric monitoring
22 and verification program utilizing aircraft, sat-
23 ellite, ground sensors, ocean and coastal observ-
24 ing systems, and modeling capabilities to mon-
25 itor, measure, and verify greenhouse gas con-

1 centrations and emissions throughout the global
2 oceans and atmosphere;

3 (F) develop and maintain a dialog among
4 research teams, Federal agencies, and stake-
5 holders for developing information relevant for
6 planning and decisionmaking;

7 (G) identify climate-related vulnerabilities
8 and build national capacity to increase resil-
9 ience;

10 (H) articulate regional and national cli-
11 mate issues and concerns in regional and na-
12 tional policy arenas and facilitate regional-na-
13 tional communications on Service needs and
14 performance; and

15 (I) outreach to stakeholder groups.

16 (b) ACTION PLAN.—Within 1 year after the date of
17 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall
18 submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
19 Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on
20 Science and Technology of the House of Representatives
21 a plan of action for the National Climate Service. The
22 plan, at a minimum, shall—

23 (1) provide for the interpretation and commu-
24 nication of climate data, conditions, predictions, pro-
25 jections, and risks on an ongoing basis to decision

1 and policy makers at the local, regional, and na-
2 tional levels;

3 (2) design, deploy, and operate a national cli-
4 mate observing system that closes gaps in existing
5 coverage;

6 (3) support infrastructure and ability to archive
7 and ensure the quality of climate data, and make
8 federally funded model simulations and other rel-
9 evant climate information available from Global
10 Change Research Program activities and other
11 sources (and related data from paleoclimate studies);

12 (4) include a program for long-term steward-
13 ship, quality control, development of relevant climate
14 products, and efficient access to all relevant climate
15 data, products, and model simulations;

16 (5) establish a national coordinated modeling
17 strategy, including a national climate modeling cen-
18 ter to provide a dedicated capability for modeling
19 and forecasting scenarios, and a regular schedule of
20 projections on long-term and short-term time hori-
21 zons over a range of scales, including regional scales;

22 (6) improve integrated modeling, assessment,
23 and predictive capabilities needed to document and
24 forecast climate changes and impacts, and to guide

1 national, regional, and local planning and decision-
2 making;

3 (7) provide a system of regular consultation
4 and coordination with Federal agencies, States,
5 tribes, nongovernmental organizations, the private
6 sector, and the academic community to ensure—

7 (A) that the information requirements of
8 these groups are well incorporated; and

9 (B) timely and full sharing, dissemination
10 and use of climate information and services in
11 risk preparedness, planning, decisionmaking,
12 and early warning and natural resources man-
13 agement, both domestically and internationally;

14 (8) develop standards, evaluation criteria, and
15 performance objectives to ensure that the Service
16 meets the evolving information needs of the public,
17 policy makers, and decisionmakers in the face of a
18 changing climate;

19 (9) develop funding estimates to implement the
20 plan; and

21 (10) support competitive research programs
22 that will improve elements of the Service described
23 in this Act through the Climate Program Office
24 within the Service headquarter function.

1 (c) DIRECTOR.—The Administrator shall appoint a
2 Director of the Service, who shall oversee all processes as-
3 sociated with managing the organization and executing the
4 functions and actions described in this Act.

5 (d) NATIONAL CLIMATE SERVICE ADVISORY COUN-
6 CIL.—The Administrator shall, in consultation with the
7 Chairmen and ranking minority members of the Com-
8 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
9 Senate and the Committee on Science and Technology of
10 the House of Representatives, and the National Academy
11 of Sciences, appoint the membership of a National Climate
12 Service Advisory Council, with members serving 4-year
13 terms, that shall include a diverse membership from ap-
14 propriate Federal, State, and local government, univer-
15 sities, and nongovernment and private sectors who use cli-
16 mate information and cover a range of sectors, such as
17 water, drought, fisheries, coasts, agriculture, health, nat-
18 ural resources, transportation, and insurance. The Council
19 shall advise the Director of the Service of key priorities
20 in climate-related issues that require the attention of the
21 Service. The Council shall be responsible for promoting
22 coordination across regional, national, and international
23 concerns and the assessment of evolving information
24 needs.

1 **SEC. 5. CONTRACT AND GRANT AUTHORITY.**

2 Functions vested in any Federal officer or agency by
3 this Act or under the program established under this Act
4 may be exercised through the facilities and personnel of
5 the agency involved or, to the extent provided or approved
6 in advance in appropriation Acts, by other persons or enti-
7 ties under contracts or grant arrangements entered into
8 by such officer or agency.

9 **SEC. 6. ANNUAL REPORT.**

10 The Secretary of Commerce shall prepare and submit
11 to the President and the Congress, not later than March
12 31 of each year, a report on the activities conducted pur-
13 suant to this Act during the preceding fiscal year, includ-
14 ing—

15 (1) a summary of the achievements of the Na-
16 tional Climate Service during the previous fiscal
17 year; and

18 (2) an analysis of the progress made toward
19 achieving the goals and objectives of the Service.

20 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

21 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
22 trator” means the Administrator of the National
23 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

24 (2) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The term “Advisory
25 Council” refers to the National Climate Service Ad-
26 visor Council.

1 (3) CLIMATE CHANGE.—The term “climate
2 change” means any change in climate over time,
3 whether due to natural variability or as a result of
4 human activity.

5 (4) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
6 the director of the National Oceanic and Atmos-
7 pheric Administration’s National Climate Service.

8 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of Commerce.

10 (6) SERVICE.—The term “Service” means the
11 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s
12 National Climate Service.

13 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
15 retary to carry out this Act—

16 (1) \$300,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.

17 (2) \$350,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.

18 (3) \$400,000,000 for fiscal year 2013.

19 (4) \$450,000,000 for fiscal year 2014.

20 (5) \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2015.

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