

Smith (NJ)	Taylor (NC)	Weiner
Smith (TX)	Thomas	Weldon (FL)
Souder	Thornberry	Weldon (PA)
Spence	Thune	Weller
Spratt	Tiahrt	Wexler
Stearns	Toomey	Weygand
Stenholm	Trafigant	Whitfield
Strickland	Turner	Wicker
Stump	Upton	Wilson
Sununu	Walden	Wolf
Sweeney	Walsh	Wu
Talent	Wamp	Young (AK)
Tauzin	Watkins	Young (FL)
Taylor (MS)	Watts (OK)	

□ 1700

□ 1702

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 1654, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of the bill (H.R. 1654) to reflect the actions of the House, and that the Clerk be directed to make the following specific changes:

In the instruction to strike in the amendment by Mr. TRAFICANT to section 103(4)(A)(i) the phrase "focused program, and", and to apply the same instruction to strike to section 103(4)(B)(i) and section 103(4)(C)(i) with respect to fiscal years 2001 and 2002.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to place extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 1654, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. SENSENBRENNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I have discussed with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO), and unless there is an amendment that we do not know about, we will probably not have votes on the next bill that is coming up. I cannot give a complete assurance that there will be no rollcall votes, but my guess is that all of the amendments and the bill will be disposed of by voice vote and the Members can take that into account when making their plans.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AND RELATED AGENCIES AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 175 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1553.

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1553) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 and fiscal year 2001 for the National Weather Service, Atmospheric Research, and National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes, with Mr. SHIMKUS in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1553, the National Weather Service and Related Agencies Authorization Act of 1999 authorizes a total of \$1.391 billion for fiscal year 2000 and \$1.468 billion for fiscal year 2001 for the National Weather Service, the NOAA office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research Programs, the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service and related facilities. The NWS, supported by the Atmospheric Research and NESDIS programs, provides around-the-clock weather and flood warning and forecast services to the general public for the protection of life and property. The NWS data is used by private sector, commercial and weather service firms which provide specialized forecasts for a variety of business uses.

The additional funds authorized by this bill will, first, provide an increase of nearly 10 percent in the lead time for tornado warnings, particularly to those areas of the Nation such as Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, the Midwest and the Southeast that are subject to devastating tornadoes; second, also provide an increase of 10 percent in forecast accuracy of the onset of freezing temperatures, particularly important for agricultural regions; third, provide an increase of nearly 5 percent in the forecast accuracy of heavy snowfall and severe storm warnings; and last, maintain current capabilities and hurricane forecasts and flood warnings. I commend the bill to the House for its adoption.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

NOES—168

Ackerman	Ganske	Neal
Allen	Gephardt	Oberstar
Andrews	Goode	Obey
Baird	Goodlatte	Olver
Baldacci	Gordon	Owens
Baldwin	Gutierrez	Pallone
Barcia	Hall (OH)	Pascrell
Barrett (WI)	Hergert	Paul
Becerra	Hill (IN)	Payne
Berkley	Hilliard	Pelosi
Berman	Hinchee	Peterson (MN)
Berry	Holden	Phelps
Blagojevich	Holt	Pomeroy
Blumenauer	Hoyer	Rahall
Bonior	Inslee	Rangel
Borski	Jackson (IL)	Rivers
Boswell	Jefferson	Roemer
Boucher	John	Rothman
Boyd	Jones (OH)	Roybal-Allard
Brady (PA)	Kanjorski	Rush
Brown (OH)	Kaptur	Sabo
Capps	Kennedy	Sanchez
Capuano	Kildee	Sanders
Cardin	Kilpatrick	Sanford
Carson	Kind (WI)	Sawyer
Clay	LaFalce	Schaffer
Clayton	Lantos	Schakowsky
Clement	Lee	Scott
Clyburn	Levin	Shuster
Coble	Lewis (GA)	Sisisky
Coburn	Lofgren	Slaughter
Conyers	Lowe	Smith (WA)
Costello	Luther	Snyder
Coyne	Maloney (NY)	Stabenow
Crowley	Martinez	Stark
Cubin	Mascara	Stupak
Cummings	Matsui	Tancredo
Danner	McCarthy (MO)	Tanner
Davis (FL)	McCarthy (NY)	Tauscher
Davis (IL)	McDermott	Thompson (CA)
DeFazio	McGovern	Thompson (MS)
Delahunt	McInnis	Thurman
Dicks	McKinney	Tierney
Dingell	McNulty	Towns
Dixon	Meehan	Udall (CO)
Doggett	Meek (FL)	Udall (NM)
Dooley	Meeks (NY)	Velázquez
Duncan	Menendez	Vento
Engel	Millender-McDonald	Visclosky
Eshoo	Miller, George	Waters
Evans	Minge	Watt (NC)
Farr	Mink	Waxman
Fattah	Moakley	Wise
Filner	Mollohan	Woolsey
Ford	Moran (VA)	Wynn
Frank (MA)	Nadler	
Franks (NJ)		

NOT VOTING—7

Brown (CA)	Pastor	Terry
Hooley	Serrano	
Napolitano	Shimkus	

□ 1658

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas changed her vote from "no" to "aye."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 139, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Chairman, I want to commend the full committee chairman, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), and the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) for bringing this bill to the floor today.

The Committee on Science has worked quickly this year to bring to the floor several authorization bills to give guidance to the Committee on Appropriations. One of the most significant of these bills is H.R. 1553, which will authorize the operations of the National Weather Service for the next 2 years. The National Weather Service provides critical information and early warning detection of disasters to communities throughout the United States. Timely, accurate weather forecasts save lives and provide us with time to prevent or at least minimize damage to property that results from tornadoes, hurricanes, blizzards and other severe weather.

New technologies pioneered by NOAA research enabled the National Weather Service to issue tornado warnings 30 minutes before they struck communities in Oklahoma. Those tornadoes caused over \$1 billion in damage to Oklahoma City and surrounding communities. The loss of life could have been much worse without early warning provided by the National Weather Service. The development and deployment of Doppler radar and the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System, AWIPS, extended the lead time for storm warnings by 20 minutes or more. More time means more lives can be saved. Emergency services can be deployed and people can take action to protect themselves.

The National Weather Service and its related research programs provide tangible benefits to our citizens every day at the cost of a few dollars per person annually. This bill replaces the Organic Act of 1890, which currently provides the definition of the National Weather Service's mission, with new language defining the duties of the Weather Service. The language was improved through the adoption of an amendment that I offered in committee which clarified the role of the National Weather Service in providing marine and aviation forecasts, and it will be further improved by the manager's amendment that will be offered by the chairman of the committee, the full committee, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

I believe the changes we have made in this section have addressed many of the concerns raised by the administration and the aviation industry. I am confident that we have a sound basis for continued work on this issue as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Although we would have preferred to see the authorization for the High Performance Computing and Communica-

tions Initiative, the HPCC, in this bill, we are satisfied that its exclusion is not done with prejudice on the part of the chairman of the committee, or the committee. Funding for the HPCC initiative supports advancements will enable NOAA to improve both short and long range forecasting.

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) indicated the committee will move separate legislation within the coming few weeks to authorize appropriations for the HPCC program in its entirety, including the authorization of NOAA's portion of the program. We understand that this bill will provide authorizations of appropriations for all departments and agencies which participate in the government-wide HPCC program, as well as in the proposed information technology for the 21st century initiative. We look forward to working with our colleagues to advance the HPCC authorization bill, given its importance to the Nation and future technology.

H.R. 1553 reflects the President's request for FY 2000 for both the program accounts and to the procurement and construction accounts of NOAA. I am pleased by the authorization levels for next year. However, I am concerned that the FY 2001 numbers, kept at the same level as FY 2000 for all program accounts, would lead to a real decline in real support for the work of the National Weather Service and related research programs.

Later, I will offer an amendment to increase the FY 2001 authorization by a modest 3 percent. I hope my colleagues will support my amendment and ensure that NOAA has the stable funding required to continue to provide the vital weather forecasting services we rely on every day.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the subcommittee chairman.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Science, for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, as the subcommittee Chair and author of this legislation, I am proud to speak in support of H.R. 1553. H.R. 1553 authorizes funding for the National Weather Service's atmospheric research, NOAA's environmental satellite data information service.

I am pleased to say that the Committee on Science reported this bill by voice vote. It was a tremendous display of how much can be accomplished when we work together in a bipartisan fashion.

Before I go on, I would like to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), for his

hard work and leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I would also like to thank the ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment and my good friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO), for his leadership on his side of the aisle. While we do not always see eye to eye, I would think it is safe to say we do agree on the importance of passing H.R. 1553.

The National Weather Service plays an important part in protecting the public. The recent violent tornadoes in Oklahoma and Texas demonstrated how important advanced warning can be. Lives were tragically lost. I am afraid that the toll would have been much, much higher if there had not been advance warning given by the National Weather Service. This is just one of many examples of the important, sometimes lifesaving, services provided in the funding of this bill.

The bill funds NOAA's satellite programs at a level consistent with the administration's request. Satellites play a critical role in weather forecasting, as well as providing important environmental data. NOAA plans an ambitious launch schedule over the next decade or so which will not only improve coverage but will also improve satellite data acquisition capabilities.

H.R. 1553 also authorizes funding for NOAA's Office of Atmospheric Research. It is important that we have a clear understanding of how the atmosphere works so that we can better understand the weather and determine if global climate change is in fact occurring. H.R. 1553 continues the committee's tradition of strong support for atmospheric sciences.

Just a quick aside: I woke up this past Saturday morning to read a front page story detailing a crucial court decision overturning EPA's thoughts on P/M and ozone standards. The Court's decision noted that the agency had far exceeded its legal authority and based the regulation on science that was proven to be potentially unsound.

The reason I bring this matter up today in the context of H.R. 1553 is that I have always been a strong proponent of moving the EPA science mission to a nonregulatory governmental body. In my mind, NOAA would be a natural choice. In the light of the court decision, I plan to hold a hearing on the subject of P/M and ozone regulations. This will build on the bipartisan series of three hearings held by the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment last year.

I would like to conclude by saying H.R. 1553 will protect public safety, maintain state-of-the-art scientific research and facilities without busting the budget or raiding the Social Security Trust Fund. This is good legislation. I encourage all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important bill.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD).

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, I do stand in support of the passage of H.R. 1553 to provide the National Weather Service with the resources to warn our citizens of impending natural disasters.

My constituents, the people of Guam, are probably the most familiar with the destruction that accompanies storms, and though we are thousands of miles away from Washington, D.C., we nonetheless share our prayers and support for stricken communities around the country.

The work of the National Weather Service, along with other Federal agencies like FEMA and the Small Business Administration, is important for communities to prepare for potential natural disasters. There is no question that with the technological advances and improved methods of research, the National Weather Service has been able to relay timely information via TV, radio, computers and other media to communities in the direct path of destruction.

Guam is located in an area of the Pacific known as typhoon alley, which was once the home of a weather reconnaissance squadron employing WC-130 aircraft. Their mission consisted of gathering advanced storm information by flying directly into a typhoon. Today, Guam remains the only part of the United States that is not covered by some kind of hurricane or typhoon aircraft.

□ 1715

I know that this is not directly related to the National Weather Service, but I did want to thank the chairman for accepting in the manager's amendment to make sure that both States and territories are equitably treated in terms of protection of property and life.

Guam is now no longer covered by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center, a casualty of the BRAC process. So it is vitally important that we continue to support the National Weather Service, particularly as they develop new ways of doing weather forecasting and providing information to communities such as Guam. It is important that as they perfect their satellite technology and as they experiment with the possibility of using fixed-wing aircraft, that they consider all parts of the United States in their service.

We in Guam would like to see perhaps the introduction of typhoon chasers once again, but it is very important that the National Weather Service and any kind of typhoon warning for a place like Guam is vitally important. Some years we face as many as 70 storm warnings in one year, and al-

most every typhoon that one hears about that hits the Asian mainland passes by or near or through Guam; hopefully most by or near.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for yielding me this time.

I would like to discuss two aspects of the science that is covered under this bill. The first my colleagues have already heard discussed by other speakers and that involves the National Weather Service and its importance. I certainly share that view, particularly since I live in a part of the country that frequently has tornadoes and have personally been in the basement a few times as tornadoes have passed overhead.

A little sideline on that, I depend heavily on the Weather Channel for my weather information, particularly when I travel, and I was struck recently by someone who commented that he did not really see the need for the National Weather Service because he got all of his weather from the TV. I enlightened him about the fact that although I love the Weather Channel and other TV that reports the weather, all that information comes from the National Weather Service, and the other services that are provided by the Weather Channel and so forth are simply massaging, computing and varying the data received from the National Weather Service. Indeed, the Weather Service performs a valuable service for our country in many, many ways.

The main point I would like to make this afternoon is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is doing a great deal of good science, often in somewhat obscure areas. All of us know how important it was 150 years ago to explore this Nation so that we could learn the details of its geography and, above all, the amount of its national resources. As we have explored our entire earth surface in terms of lands and found all the natural resources or nearly all the natural resources of the various landed areas of our planet, we realize that in another century we are going to have to get many of our natural resources from the oceans.

I wanted to point out and bring to light an important service performed by NOAA last year, and this was published in Science Magazine on September 26 of last year by Dr. Smith of NOAA, Dr. Walter H.F. Smith, and Dr. David Sandwell of the Scripps Institute.

Before their work was done, we only had rough ideas of the topography underneath the oceans, and that was obtained by echo sounding data from ships. But there are many areas that were unexplored, areas as large as the State of Oklahoma which had never

been explored. The two scientists I mentioned developed a method by watching the motion of the satellites and measuring their positions very carefully and calculating the gravitational attraction of the various parts of the Earth upon the satellites and calculating backwards, finding the topographic structure underneath the oceans. It is not extremely accurate, but when we have areas the size of Oklahoma with no data, then any data is worthwhile, and they have done a remarkable job. They found an entire mountain range underneath the ocean which was not known about before.

Now, why is this important? First of all, as my colleagues can see, there are many rifts in the ocean bed. Most of those areas provide a lot of warm water which, in turn, provides for a great deal of activity by various organisms which forms the bottom of the food chain for the fishing industry. By plotting this more carefully, we have been able to aid the fishing industry throughout the world. But even more importantly, those rifts produce tremendous amounts of natural resources of metals which we are running out of on our landed areas and, in the future, we are likely to be mining ocean module and picking up these nodules of material which are quite abundant on the ocean floor. It will be very difficult to operate in that situation, but certainly this is something that has been pursued to a certain extent already, and once the prices of minerals rise this will provide a major source of resources for the next century and beyond.

I personally thank these scientists and others who have worked on this issue and the many other issues they deal with, and I think it is very important for the Congress and for the people of this Nation to realize that this important work is being done and is being done so well by the scientific community of our Nation.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I understand that the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CRAMER) wants to engage in a colloquy, and this seems to be about the last chance to do that before general debate is over with.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman, and he is correct, I do wish to engage in a colloquy. It happens to be about Weather Service modernization issues and the process that we have been going through for years, those of us from vulnerable communities and those of us who have expressed concerns. I know the chairman has been aware of that for some time.

NOAA, through the Modernization Transition Committee, is engaged in

this process of independently reviewing the necessity of maintaining those Weather Service offices throughout the country, and in fact they have already rubber-stamped the closure of maybe more than 100 of those. Some of those closings, in my opinion, could result in the degradation of service, and that is of particular concern to me and why regularly I have monitored this bill and wanted to make sure that some of our more vulnerable communities had that review process in place.

I wanted to inquire if the chairman would care to comment about where we are currently with that and with regard to those circumstances, whether the Weather Services Modernization Committee is trying to close some of those offices.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I would like to tell my friend, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CRAMER), as well as the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON), who has a similar concern, that the Committee on Science is aware of the NOAA Modernization Transition Committee process and commends NOAA for its efforts in this regard.

The committee is also aware of the efforts of various communities that maintain local weather coverage and shares the gentlemen's view and their concern about the degradation of service that may result from closing Weather Service offices. Consequently, the Committee on Science strongly urges NOAA to continue to aggressively work with local communities in developing comprehensive strategies that will allow high-risk communities to effectively respond to occurrences of severe weather.

I can add that the Committee on Science is known as doing tough-love oversight, and this is one of the areas where the committee will be doing some pretty tough oversight because we do not want NOAA modernization to result in a huge degradation of service, particularly in the high-risk areas. I know the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CRAMER) represents one of those areas, as does the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON).

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I would like to add that I appreciate that attitude, and I am aware that the Modernization Transition Committee has its work cut out for it and that NOAA has had to look after closing a number of these offices. But I was also aware that a few of us were in perhaps an extraordinarily exceptional category. So I appreciate the committee's attitude in expressing this tough-love oversight, because I think NOAA needs that, and I think our citizens deserve that.

So I thank the gentleman for that attitude.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill is considered as an original for the purpose of amendment and is considered read.

The text of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 1553

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Weather Service and Related Agencies Authorization Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act, the term—

(1) "Administrator" means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

(2) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.

(a) OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES.—*There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Operations, Research, and Facilities activities of the National Weather Service \$617,897,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$617,897,000 for fiscal year 2001, to remain available until expended. Of such amounts—*

(1) \$449,441,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$450,411,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Local Warnings and Forecasts;

(2) \$2,200,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$2,200,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Advanced Hydrological Prediction System;

(3) \$619,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$619,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Susquehanna River Basin Flood Systems;

(4) \$35,596,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$35,596,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Aviation Forecasts;

(5) \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) Facilities Maintenance;

(6) \$37,081,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$37,081,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Central Forecast Guidance;

(7) \$3,090,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$3,090,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Atmospheric and Hydrological Research;

(8) \$39,325,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$39,325,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD);

(9) \$7,573,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$7,573,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS);

(10) \$38,002,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$38,002,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS); and

(11) \$970,000 for fiscal year 2000 shall be for two 1,000-watt National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio transmitters, to be located in Jasper and Marion Counties, Illinois, and nine 300-watt National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio transmitters, to be installed in appropriate locations throughout the State of Illinois, and for maintenance costs related thereto.

(b) PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUCTION.—*There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National*

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction activities of the National Weather Service \$69,632,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$70,120,000 for fiscal year 2001, to remain available until expended. Of such amounts—

(1) \$9,560,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$9,060,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD);

(2) \$4,180,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$6,125,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS);

(3) \$22,575,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$21,525,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS);

(4) \$11,100,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$12,835,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Computer Facilities Upgrades;

(5) \$8,350,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$8,350,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Radiosonde Replacement;

(6) \$500,000 for fiscal year 2000 shall be for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Operations Center Rehabilitation; and

(7) \$13,367,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$12,225,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Construction.

(c) DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—*To protect life and property, the Secretary, through the National Weather Service, except as provided in paragraph (2), shall be responsible for—*

(A) forecasts and shall serve as the sole official source of weather and flood warnings;

(B) the issuance of storm warnings;

(C) the collection, exchange, and distribution of meteorological, hydrological, climatic, and oceanographic data and information;

(D) the preparation of hydrometeorological guidance and core forecast information; and

(E) the issuance of marine and aviation forecasts and warnings.

(2) COMPETITION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR.—*The National Weather Service shall not provide, or assist other entities to provide, a service (other than a service described in paragraph (1)(A) or (B)) if that service is currently provided or can be provided by commercial enterprise, unless—*

(A) the Secretary finds that the private sector is unwilling or unable to provide the service; or

(B) the service provides vital weather warnings and forecasts for the protection of lives and property of the general public.

(3) AMENDMENTS.—*The Act of October 1, 1890 (26 Stat. 653) is amended—*

(A) by striking section 3 (15 U.S.C. 313); and

(B) in section 9 (15 U.S.C. 317), by striking "and it shall be" and all that follows, and inserting a period.

(4) REPORT.—*Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report detailing all National Weather Service activities which do not conform to the requirements of this subsection and outlining a timetable for their termination.*

SEC. 4. ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH.

(a) OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—*There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Atmospheric Research Operations, Research, and Facilities environmental research and development activities of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research \$173,250,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$173,250,000 for fiscal year 2001, to remain available until expended.*

(2) CLIMATE AND AIR QUALITY RESEARCH.—*Of the amounts authorized under paragraph (1),*

\$126,200,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$126,200,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Climate and Air Quality Research, of which—

(A) \$16,900,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$16,900,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Inter-annual and Seasonal Climate Research;

(B) \$34,600,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$34,600,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Long-Term Climate and Air Quality Research;

(C) \$69,700,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$69,700,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Climate and Global Change; and

(D) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE).

(3) **ATMOSPHERIC PROGRAMS.**—Of the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), \$47,050,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$47,050,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Atmospheric Programs, of which—

(A) \$36,600,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$36,600,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Weather Research;

(B) \$4,350,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$4,350,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Wind Profiler; and

(C) \$6,100,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$6,100,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Solar-Terrestrial Services and Research.

(b) **PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUCTION.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Atmospheric Research Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction environmental research and development activities of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research \$10,040,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$14,160,000 for fiscal year 2001, to remain available until expended. Of such amounts—

(1) \$5,700,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory Super-computer; and

(2) \$4,340,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$6,160,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for the Advanced Composition Explorer (ACE) Follow-On Satellite/GEOSTORM.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA AND INFORMATION SERVICE.

(a) **OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES.**—(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Operations, Research, and Facilities environmental research and development and related activities of the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service \$103,092,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$103,092,000 for fiscal year 2001, to remain available until expended.

(2) **SATELLITE OBSERVING SYSTEMS.**—Of the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), \$59,236,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$59,236,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Satellite Observing Systems, of which—

(A) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN);

(B) \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Ocean Remote Sensing; and

(C) \$53,236,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$53,236,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Environmental Observing Services.

(3) **ENVIRONMENTAL DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS.**—Of the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), \$43,856,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$43,856,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Environmental Data Management Systems, of which—

(A) \$31,521,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$31,521,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Data and Information Services; and

(B) \$12,335,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$12,335,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Environmental Data Systems Modernization.

(b) **PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUCTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction environmental research and development and related activities of the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service \$413,657,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$476,183,000 for fiscal year 2001, to remain available until expended.

(2) **SYSTEMS ACQUISITION.**—Of the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), \$410,612,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$473,803,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Systems Acquisition, of which—

(A) \$140,979,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$114,594,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for the procurement and launch of, and supporting ground systems for, Polar Orbiting Environmental Satellites (POES), K, L, M, N, and N';

(B) \$80,100,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$113,600,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for the procurement and launch of, and supporting ground systems for, the National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS); and

(C) \$189,533,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$245,609,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for the procurement and launch of, and supporting ground systems for, Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite NEXT follow-on Satellites (GOES N-Q).

(3) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Of the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), \$3,045,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$2,380,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Operations Center Rehabilitation Construction.

SEC. 6. FACILITIES.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Operations, Research, and Facilities environmental research and development and related activities required to meet recurring facilities operations costs associated with the David Skaggs Research Center in Boulder, Colorado, \$3,850,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$3,850,000 for fiscal year 2001.

SEC. 7. ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARDS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall exclude from consideration for grant agreements made after fiscal year 1999 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the activities for which funds are authorized under this Act, any person who received funds, other than those described in subsection (b), appropriated for a fiscal year after fiscal year 1999, under a grant agreement from any Federal funding source for a project that was not subjected to a competitive, merit-based award process, except as specifically authorized by this Act. Any exclusion from consideration pursuant to this section shall be effective for a period of 5 years after the person receives such Federal funds.

(b) **EXCEPTION.**—Subsection (a) shall not apply to the receipt of Federal funds by a person due to the membership of that person in a class specified by law for which assistance is awarded to members of the class according to a formula provided by law.

(c) **DEFINITION.**—For purposes of this section, the term "grant agreement" means a legal instrument whose principal purpose is to transfer a thing of value to the recipient to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law of the United States, and does not include the acquisition (by purchase, lease, or barter) of property or services for the direct ben-

efit or use of the United States Government. Such term does not include a cooperative agreement (as such term is used in section 6305 of title 31, United States Code) or a cooperative research and development agreement (as such term is defined in section 12(d)(1) of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710a(d)(1))).

SEC. 8. INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.

The Administrator shall make available through the Internet home page of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration the abstracts relating to all research grants and awards made with funds authorized by this Act. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require or permit the release of any information prohibited by law or regulation from being released to the public.

The CHAIRMAN. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chair may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment that he has printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered read.

The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone a request for a recorded vote on any amendment and may reduce to a minimum of 5 minutes the time for voting on any postponed question that immediately follows another vote, provided that the time for voting on the first question shall be a minimum of 15 minutes.

Are there any amendments to the bill?

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CALVERT

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. CALVERT:

In section 3(c)(1), insert "(in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Territories)" after "life and property".

In section 3(c)(2)—

(1) strike "(other than a service described in paragraph (1)(A) or (B))";

(2) strike subparagraph (A);

(3) redesignate subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (A);

(4) in subparagraph (A), as so redesignated by paragraph (3) of this amendment, strike "lives" and insert "life";

(5) at the end of subparagraph (A), as so redesignated by paragraph (3) of this amendment, strike the period and insert "; or"; and

(6) add at the end the following new subparagraph:

(B) the United States Government is obligated to provide such service under international aviation agreements to provide meteorological services and exchange meteorological information.

Mr. CALVERT (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Science.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment to H.R. 1553. This amendment was crafted in a bipartisan manner with my colleagues, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO), the ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment; the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON), and the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD). It contains carefully thought out language which will ensure that we maintain a proper balance between the protection of life and property while promoting a private sector weather forecasting industry.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of the amendment.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

As the subcommittee chairman indicated, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), we did discuss this amendment. I am in total support of the manager's amendment.

The amendment addresses the major concerns our constituents in the aviation industry had on the section of the bill dealing with the duties of the Weather Service by making clear that the National Weather Service will continue to be responsible for providing weather information that is vital to protect life and property. Access to reliable high-quality weather information is essential to maintain the excellent safety record that our aviation industry has achieved and that the public expects. The National Weather Service's role in providing this information in support of our aviation industry will continue.

The amendment also clarifies that the U.S. Government, through the National Weather Service, will continue to provide the weather services under our international aviation agreements. I know the administration also had concerns about the language included in the bill as reported to the House by the full committee. I believe this amendment will address those concerns on the part of the administration and the aviation industry.

Again, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the chairman of the subcommittee, for offering this manager's amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. TRAFICANT

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 2 offered by Mr. TRAFICANT:

At the end of the bill, add the following new sections:

SEC. 9. COMPLIANCE WITH BUY AMERICAN ACT.

No funds authorized pursuant to this Act may be expended by an entity unless the en-

tity agrees that in expending the assistance the entity will comply with sections 2 through 4 of the Act of March 3, 1933 (41 U.S.C. 10a-10c, popularly known as the "Buy American Act").

SEC. 10. SENSE OF CONGRESS: REQUIREMENT REGARDING NOTICE.

(a) PURCHASE OF AMERICAN-MADE EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCTS.—In the case of any equipment or products that may be authorized to be purchased with financial assistance provided under this Act, it is the sense of the Congress that entities receiving such assistance should, in expending the assistance, purchase only American-made equipment and products.

(b) NOTICE TO RECIPIENTS OF ASSISTANCE.—In providing financial assistance under this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall provide to each recipient of the assistance a notice describing the statement made in subsection (a) by the Congress.

SEC. 11. PROHIBITION OF CONTRACTS.

If it has been finally determined by a court or Federal agency that any person intentionally affixed a label bearing a "Made in America" inscription, or any inscription with the same meaning, to any product sold in or shipped to the United States that is not made in the United States, such person shall be ineligible to receive any contract or subcontract made with funds provided pursuant to this Act, pursuant to the debarment, suspension, and ineligibility procedures described in section 9.400 through 9.409 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Chairman, this is a buy-American amendment that has been added to these bills.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TRAFICANT. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, this is a very good buy-American amendment, and we accept it.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HUTCHINSON

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. HUTCHINSON:
In section 3, insert at the end the following new subsection:

(d) CLOSING OF LOCAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICES.—It is the sense of the Congress that the National Weather Service must fully take into account the dangerous and life threatening nature of weather patterns in Wind Zone IV, otherwise known as tornado alley, before making any determination on the closure of any of its local weather service offices.

Mr. HUTCHINSON (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Chairman, first of all, this amendment is some-

thing that I have worked with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) in regard to, and I want to thank them for their understanding of this important issue.

The amendment is very simple. It expresses the sense of Congress that the National Weather Service must fully take into account the dangerous and life-threatening nature of weather patterns in wind zone number four, otherwise known as Tornado Alley, before making any determination on its closure of any of its local Weather Service offices.

□ 1730

This sense of the Congress resolution is very important because, as we know, in Oklahoma they have had severe impact, loss of life, because of tornadoes of devastating impact.

In my State of Arkansas we have had similar circumstances, and they are considering and debating whether to close the local Weather Service office in Fort Smith. Only a few years ago, in 1996, there was a devastating tornado that came into Fort Smith and the Van Buren area which caused a loss of life. There was inadequate warning that still embarrasses the Weather Service because of that.

In fact, on that occasion there was a local spotter that called the Tulsa office, which is what we would be under if we totally closed the Fort Smith office, and they were told that there was a tornado that was spotted in Pocola, only a few miles from Fort Smith, and the response from Tulsa was, where is Pocola? Pocola, of course, is again within the Fort Smith area. It is difficult to give an adequate warning when there is not a grasp of what is happening on the ground.

So this is a great concern, and this I believe expresses the sense of Congress that they have to take into consideration the extraordinarily dangerous weather patterns in tornado alley, and the many States that are affected by the weather patterns in wind zone number 4.

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HUTCHINSON. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Arkansas for yielding to me.

While I commend the modernization transition committee for their work, and especially their work regarding the closure of the Evansville, Indiana office, I think it is necessary to chronicle the actual life lost and the loss of property as a result of the inadequate service provided there.

On April 14 of 1996 an F-2 tornado struck Warrick County, Indiana, without warning, toppling two rail cars and tossing a trash dumpster into an electrical transformer at Alcoa's Warrick operations.

Subsequently, a Reed, Kentucky woman was killed by a tornado of which she had no warning to the locale. Neither did the tornado in Warrick County. Likewise, no warning was given prior to a tornado hitting the north side of Evansville, Indiana, the third largest city in the State of Indiana, and damaged two places of business.

Then, most recently, an F-2 tornado touched down in Pike County, Indiana, with no warning, destroying three homes.

So I commend the gentleman from Arkansas for his bringing up this very important issue, and I ask for his sense of Congress amendment to be adopted by the committee and the House.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. I thank the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, with regret, I must oppose the amendment of the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON). While not binding, the gentleman's sense of Congress amendment telling the National Weather Service that it should not close any local Weather Service office for any reason whatsoever is in direct contradiction to the provisions of existing law. It will have a chilling effect that could well bring the service's modernization efforts to a halt, with potentially disastrous consequences for public health and safety.

I would remind the gentleman from Arkansas and the gentleman from Indiana that this bill improves forecast accuracy for tornadoes by 10 percent. The reason we are able to do that without busting the budget is by making the Weather Service more efficient.

The Weather Service plan for its modernization and associated restructuring was approved overwhelmingly by Congress and signed into law by President Bush in 1992. Already this multibillion dollar effort has resulted in dramatic gains in the service's capability to predict severe weather events such as tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, severe thunderstorms, damaging hail, and high winds, and in dramatic gains in its ability to further ensure the public health and safety.

The only way this multibillion dollar modernization effort was and is affordable is because Congress also directed the Weather Service to consolidate its sprawling network of local Weather Service offices. The savings from this consolidation effort allows the modernization effort to proceed.

Congress also established an elaborate procedure to ensure that local Weather Service offices were not closed in a willy-nilly fashion and were not subject to partisan politics.

For example, the Secretary of Commerce may not close, consolidate, automate, or relocate any field office

“* * * unless the Secretary has certified”, “certified that such action will not result in any degradation of service.”

In addition, a public review process was also established, and, as an additional protection, Congress created a 12-member modernization transition committee comprised of five members representing the National Weather Service, the Department of Defense, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency and several members from civil defense, public safety and labor organizations, news media, pilots, and farmers. This committee may review any certification proposed by the Secretary of Commerce to determine if a degradation of service might result.

Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, the gentleman's amendment would have the implied effect of overriding this elaborate and fair public process. In addition, as I said earlier, it would have a chilling effect that could well bring the service's modernization efforts to a halt with potentially disastrous consequences to public health and safety.

We simply cannot afford to complete the National Weather Service's modernization effort and to operate the new system without the parallel restructuring of Weather Service field offices.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment and to support the committee's effort to complete the modernization.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to thank the gentleman for his comments, and I wanted to remind the gentleman that a substitute amendment has been offered, and that I think it clarifies the objections that have been expressed by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

So I hope that with the amended amendment, the substitute amendment that has been offered, that the gentleman will be able to support it, because I believe it is consistent with the goals of the National Weather Service, but also expresses a sense of Congress that they have to take into account the dangerous and life-threatening nature of the weather patterns in wind zone number 4, and these States that are impacted by this are Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Missouri, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Arkansas, Michigan, Tennessee, and Georgia.

So Members can see the States impacted by wind zone number 4 are significant, and we ask the House or would ask the chairman hopefully to be able to support this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gen-

tleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 175, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) will be postponed.

Are there further amendments?

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. COSTELLO

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. COSTELLO:

At the end of the bill, insert the following new section:

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION INCREASE.

Each of the amounts authorized for fiscal year 2001 by this Act, except for the amounts authorized by sections 3(b), 4(b), and 5(b), shall be increased by 3 percent.

Mr. COSTELLO (during the reading).

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, my amendment prevents a cut in services performed by the National Weather Service in FY 2001. The bill before us today leaves funding for NOAA programs flat from FY 2000 to FY 2001. My amendment would increase the authorized levels for FY 2001 by a modest 3 percent.

Construction and procurement accounts are excluded from this increase because in those areas authorization levels are consistent with real projected outyear numbers. My amendment would increase the bill's total authorization level by just under \$27 million. If we are able to avoid major damage from just one major weather event in fiscal year 2001, this investment will have paid off many times over.

There are few programs that match the success of the National Weather Service. The recent tragedy in Oklahoma, where deadly tornadoes leveled residential communities, is our most recent example of the importance that timely and accurate weather forecasting plays in our lives. The extra 15 to 20 minutes of warning that our investments in forecasting and prediction research and in technology improvements at NOAA saved lives.

The May 6 issue of USA Today contained an editorial which provided the statistics on storm-related deaths from the 1950s until today. The number of storm-related deaths has decreased by two-thirds over the past 40 years. Weather Service programs cost each taxpayer a few dollars per year. This is a modest price to pay for the protection of life and property.

The level of increased funding provided in my amendment is consistent with the committee's past views and estimates, which called for a 3 percent increase for FY 1998, a 4 percent increase in FY 1999, and a 3 percent increase for FY 2000. Almost all of the members of the Committee on Science supported these increases. I have purposely stayed within the Chairman's preferred range of increases.

The increased funding is also consistent with the increases the committee is providing in the authorization bills for other agencies and departments under our jurisdiction.

The committee has made a commitment, through the Science Policy Report conducted by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), to "stable and sustainable Federal R&D funding" over the next 5 years. Sustainability is not achieved if we let inflation erode the funding levels.

This amendment meets the stability and sustainability tests set out by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. In fact, Mr. Chairman, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Chairman SENSENBRENNER) has rightfully, in my opinion, criticized the administration on several occasions for failing to provide adequate outyear funding in its budget request leading to net declines in inflation-adjusted funding. Flat funding means that all the increased inflationary costs for doing work will be absorbed by Weather Service programs leading to an effective cut in funding.

Finally, by providing a modest increase of 3 percent, consistent with the policy of the committee, in FY 2001 authorized levels for Weather Service programs, we send a strong signal to the administration and the Committee on Appropriations that we value NOAA's Weather Service programs, and that we want to continue to provide stable funding to support these programs.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant opposition to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO), which would add nearly \$27 million to the bill's already generous fiscal year 2001 authorization level.

This bill recommends an increase of \$61.1 million, or 4.6 percent, above the fiscal 1999 appropriated level for fiscal year 2000, then an additional increase of \$67.1 million, or 4.8 percent, above the fiscal 2000 recommended level for fiscal year 2001.

It is consistent with the administration's request, and also consistent with my pledge to provide stable and sustainable R&D funding over the next 5 years for programs under the Committee on Science's jurisdiction.

I would just point out that I have been talking about 3 percent increases

overall for science. This bill has 4.6 percent in the first year and 4.8 percent in the second year, which is over that recommended amount.

While I understand the gentleman's amendment is well-intentioned, I also believe it is unwise, while we are trying to sustain the balanced budget caps in order to preserve and protect social security. I simply cannot be a party to an amendment that threatens the well-being of our senior citizens, and consequently, I urge rejection of the Costello amendment.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of this amendment offered by my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO). It would increase authorization levels for the National Weather Service and the atmospheric research functions of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration by 3 percent in fiscal year 2001.

As it stands, this bill includes no increases in program accounts from fiscal year 2000 to 2001. I believe that will be insufficient to provide for the real needs of our Nation.

With no allowance for inflation, this flat funding authorization will produce a decline in the real work being done by NOAA. The nominal dollars from fiscal year 2000 to 2001 appear to be the same, but the level of service it supported will decline, in real terms.

With a major NOAA facility in my district in Boulder, Colorado, I want to avoid this real decline in the level of funding and services.

The Space Environment Center that detects solar storms which can interfere with the operations of our utility companies and cell phones is based also in Boulder. The Forecast Systems Lab, which worked with the Weather Service to develop the advanced weather interactive processing system, or the radar system that is now used across our country, is also based in Boulder.

□ 1745

But this decline in funding and services will affect other Members' districts as well, and the impact of reduced funds on NOAA's Weather Service and its studies on atmospheric and environmental change will be felt nationwide.

The Costello amendment will result in an increase in program authorizations of less than \$27 million. The level of increase is consistent with the committee's past reviews and estimates, and those are produced by the majority. The majority endorsed a 3 percent increase in fiscal 1998 and fiscal 2000 and a 4 percent increase in fiscal year 1999. Furthermore, in a February report the majority criticized as too low the out-year numbers and the President's request for programs under the Committee on Science's jurisdiction.

I would add that the Costello amendment is consistent with the findings in

the report on Federal Science policy of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS). That report called for stable and substantial funding for science programs. But it is hard to see how funding can be stable and substantial if we routinely let inflation eat away at our programs.

Mr. Chairman, I urge support of this amendment. As it stands, the bill does not enable NOAA and the National Weather Service to do their jobs. We must not marginalize these important programs.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield to me?

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. I am happy to yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, let me respond to the increase in FY 2000 and FY 2001 of the gentleman from Wisconsin (Chairman SENSENBRENNER). The increases, in fact the percentages that the gentleman from Wisconsin (Chairman SENSENBRENNER) gave are in fact accurate.

But the point that needs to be made here is that the increases are for construction and procurement. There are no increases for programs. So the point is that the increases are going to construction and procurement. There are no increases in FY 2001 for programs. In effect, the inflation factor will require a cut in program funding for that fiscal year.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HUTCHINSON

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The Clerk designated the amendment.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my demand for a recorded vote, and I ask for a division.

The question was taken; and on a division (demanded by Mr. HUTCHINSON) there were—ayes 5, noes 0.

So the amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Are there further amendments?

If not, the question is on the committee amendment in the nature of the substitute, as amended.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COX) having assumed the chair, Mr. PEASE, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration

the bill (H.R. 1553) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 and fiscal year 2001 for the National Weather Service, Atmospheric Research, and National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 175, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute adopted by the Committee of the Whole?

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I demand a separate vote on the so-called Costello amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is a separate vote demanded on any other amendment?

If not, the Clerk will report the amendment on which a separate vote has been demanded.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment:

At the end of the bill, insert the following new section:

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION INCREASE.

Each of the amounts authorized for fiscal year 2001 by this Act, except for the amounts authorized by sections 3(b), 4(b), and 5(b), shall be increased by 3 percent.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment.

The question was taken; and on a division (demanded by Mr. CALVERT) there were—ayes 3, noes 5.

So the amendment was rejected.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute as amended, was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN THE EN-GROSSMENT OF H.R. 1553, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AND RELATED AGENCIES AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of the bill to reflect the actions of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all

Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 1553.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

PUT SOCIAL SECURITY FIRST AND POLITICS SECOND

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I said yesterday in my Social Security Task Force meeting that I was going to do some yelling and screaming about encouraging the American people and this Congress to move ahead with Social Security reform. If the American people decide that there should be Social Security reform, then we will do it.

That is what happens in Washington. We have made a tremendous stride forward in saying we are not going to spend the Social Security surpluses for other government expenditures. But if nobody cares, this body and the President are going to spend that money.

I think it is so important that every community, every senior citizen, every young person that is going to end up paying this bill start being active, start writing their legislators, start writing the President, because we have got to put Social Security first and put politics second.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

IN MEMORY OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER THREE DAVID ALLAN GIBBS

(Mr. REGULA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, today, Chief Warrant Officer Three David Allan Gibbs was laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery in a very moving ceremony. He was fondly remembered by family, friends, and colleagues for his bravery and selfless dedication to his country.

David Gibbs entered the United States Marine Corps in 1980 after graduating from Washington High School in Massillon, Ohio. He served in a number of posts both at home and overseas before transferring to the United States Army in 1985.

It was in the Army that David was able to pursue his dream of flying, and

he soon became a helicopter pilot of the AH-1 Cobra and later the Apache. As a pilot, he served in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm where he earned the Bronze Star Metal.

David Gibbs died in Albania on May 5, 1999, serving on Task Force Hawk as part of the NATO mission in the Balkans. He is survived by his wife Jean, daughters Allison and Megan, son David, mother Dorothy, brother Chuck, and sister Pam.

David Gibbs represents what is best about this country, that young people follow their dreams, stand up for the ideals in which they believe, and in doing so make us all proud and humble.

□ 1800

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER KEVIN REICHERT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American hero, U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Reichert.

Last week I attended Officer Reichert's funeral in his hometown of Chetek, Wisconsin, a small town of 2,000 people in the northern part of my congressional district.

Chetek is like any small town in rural America. When a member of the community is recognized for outstanding deeds, everyone shares in the pride and joy; and when tragedy strikes, the community shares in the grief. It is unfortunate that last week the people of Chetek came together to bury a hometown hero.

Kevin Reichert lost his life, along with his copilot Chief Warrant Officer David Gibbs, during an Apache flight-training mission in Albania while in support of Operation Allied Force. These two men were stationed in Illesheim, Germany, with their families and were the first American casualties of Operation Allied Force in Yugoslavia.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Reichert began his military career in the United States Air Force, where he served with great pride and honor. He later transferred to the U.S. Army in order to realize his lifelong dream of flying. Kevin was accepted to an Army aviation flight program. He later distinguished himself as an outstanding and decorated officer. His commitment to his country was an inspiration to those who served with him.

When I attended Kevin's funeral, I had the opportunity to speak with Chief Warrant Officer Paul Clark, who lived with Kevin in Illesheim and served with him in Albania. In his eulogy, Officer Clark honored his fallen fellow soldier by saying, "Kevin always