Federal Science Policy Update

to the
Member Representatives
University Corporation for
Atmospheric Research

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Political Landscape

- Democrats take control of Congress
- Congressional priorities dramatically change – climate change moves up to the spotlight; Congress passes America COMPETES Act
- FY 2007 appropriations gets completed by Democrats
- FY 2008 – Continuing Resolution
- Congress and the White House face off
FY 2008 Budget for the Atmospheric Sciences

- FY 2007 saw some budgetary improvements

- For FY 2008 discretionary spending remains tight and big differences between the White House and Congress

- Pending FY 2008 appropriations bills are more generous than the White House for science and education – particularly for the atmospheric sciences
National Science Foundation

- Bush Administration requested $6.43 billion, an 8% increase, in FY 2008 – year 2 of the American Competitiveness Initiative

- House appropriations bill provides $6.51 billion

- Senate appropriations bill provides $6.55 billion

- House bill has report language directing the geosciences to be a part of the innovation agenda and receive increases accordingly; so does America COMPETES Act
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

- Bush Administration requested $3.8 billion – with $125M for interagency ocean research priorities – NPOESS and GOES-R are big budget problems for all

- House appropriations bill provides $4.0 billion

- Senate appropriations bill provides $4.2 billion
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

- Bush Administration requested $17 billion – emphasis on manned missions at the expense of science growth

- House appropriations bill provides $290 million increase to NASA budget in an effort to help restore science programs, including Earth sciences

- Senate appropriations bill provides $150 million increase to NASA budget to help restore science programs, including Earth sciences
2007 UCAR Advocacy Actions and Accomplishments

- Supported appropriations for the geosciences at NSF, NASA and NOAA
- Inclusion of environmental sciences in final version of America COMPETES Act
- NRC Earth Science Decadal Survey gets Congressional attention
- Played key role in climate change research challenges and opportunities
- Worked on the development of Rep Udall’s climate change data legislation
- Playing a leading role in advocating for a hurricane research initiative
- Playing a leading role in ensuring an “atmospheric science friendly” agenda for the Friends of NOAA Coalition