National Climate Service Proposals

National Climate Service Act of 2009 (HR 2407), Gordon

National Climate Service

- President initiate a process for establishing the Service within 30 days of enactment
- Environment and Natural Resources Committee of the National Science and Technology Council (OSTP) evaluate and propose structure to Congress
- Three year process led by OSTP:
  - Within 1 year, conduct survey of the current and future needs of users
  - Within 2 years, transmit a report to Congress which includes results of the survey and a plan to establish the “collaborative, interagency research and operational program;” report will designate the leading federal agency and description of agency roles
  - Within 3 years, and after delivery of report to Congress, establish the Service

NOAA Climate Service Program

- A component of the National Climate Service
- Not identified as the lead federal agency (that will be determined by the OSTP process), but the likely choice
- Coordinate NOAA climate activities
- Serve as liaison to other agencies
- Ensure exchange of data with USGCRP
- Program operated through a national center, Climate Service Office, and network of regional facilities

Agency TBD

Agency TBD

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Features of HR 2407:

- Does not provide a structure for the National Climate Service; directs OSTP to develop and propose to Congress. The bill does not identify relevant federal agencies or their roles.
- In an earlier version of the bill, the Service was housed at NOAA. The amended version does not create the Service within NOAA, but creates a Climate Service Program at NOAA to coordinate NOAA climate activities. NOAA will become part of the Service.
- Does not provide a clear role for non-federal entities aside from those participating in NOAA programs.
- Requires OSTP to transmit to Congress at the time of the FY 2013 budget request, and annually thereafter, a report on annual anticipated costs.
- Authorizes the RISA program; removes the funding cap of $300,000 from an earlier version.
- Authorizes a Summer Institutes program for middle and high school teachers and undergraduate students hosted by a Regional Climate Center or an eligible partner, which can include nonprofit entities with expertise in providing educational enrichment experience for students.
Climate and Ocean Research and Coordination Act of 2009 (National Climate Enterprise Act) (HR 2685), Bordallo

**Interdepartmental Oversight Board**
- Establish broad policy framework, principles for engagement, and priorities for the Enterprise
- Deliver President's budget request to Congress
- Comprised of Secretaries and Administrators of Federal Departments and Agencies
- Chaired by OSTP

**Interagency Coordinating Committee**
- Guided by the framework created by the Board
- Tasked with establishing strategies for research for federal agencies and a National Climate Data Network, a plan for federal agency and non-federal collaboration, eligibility requirements, certification standards and compliance procedures for non-federal contributors to become incorporated into the Enterprise, and protocols/standards for non-federal contributors to produce Enterprise-certified data
- Comprised of members designated by the Secretaries on the Board and non-federal contributors

**Climate Operations Office**
- Housed within NOAA
- Manage the daily operations of the Enterprise
- Single point of contact for agencies, non-federal contributors and public/private end users
- Manage the National Climate Data Network
- Authorized to enter into contracts, leases, grants or cooperative agreements with non-federal contributors, establish FFRDCs, develop and implement a merit-based competitive funding process, and provide opportunities for competitive grants and contracts for climate research, development of new climate models, and development and testing of new products and services

**Non-Federal Contributors**
- Feed data into the National Climate Data Network
- Gather, process and disseminate data according to established Enterprise protocols
- Among eligible entities are universities, public-private partnerships and NGOs
- Must be certified or established by contract or agreement by the Climate Operations Office

**Features of HR 2685:**
- Provides a structural framework, which includes federal and non-federal components abiding by a set of common agreements.
- NOAA is the lead federal agency in terms of day-to-day operations.
- The Interdepartmental Oversight Board would identify the roles for each federal agency.
- Non-federal entities have a direct role to play in the Enterprise as contributing members.
- Non-federal contributors shall serve on the Enterprise Advisory Board, which provides advice to the Interagency Coordinating Committee.
- Authorizes such sums as are necessary for fiscal years 2010 through 2014.
- Includes a title serving as a NOAA organic act.