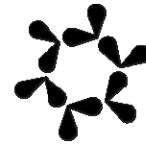




**University Corporation for  
Atmospheric Research**



**THE WEATHER  
COALITION**

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August 27, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Daniel Inouye  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science and Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Alan Mollohan  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science and Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Pelosi, Chairmen Inouye, Obey, Mikulski and Mollohan:

On behalf of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) and the Weather Coalition, we are writing to urge Congress to complete work on the FY 2010 Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) appropriations bill prior to the start of fiscal year (FY) 2010 on October 1. Passing FY 2010 CJS appropriations in regular order will allow critical science programs funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to continue without another costly interruption. Because of last year's unresolved budget, *many* science investigators and institutions did not receive spending guidance from their sponsors until June of this year, almost nine months into the fiscal year. It is extremely difficult to plan research programs – with their complicated staffing and logistics – without a budget to follow.

UCAR is a consortium of over 100 research universities that offer programs in the atmospheric sciences. The Weather Coalition, a diverse group of representatives of industry, academia, and scientific and professional associations, promotes initiatives that advance U.S. weather observation, prediction, and warning capabilities.

NSF, NOAA, and NASA are at the forefront of efforts to solve pressing national priorities such as mitigating and adapting to the harmful effects of global climate change – initiatives that we cannot afford to reduce or delay due to flat funding under a continuing resolution (CR). Furthermore, the significant increases for NSF, NOAA, and NASA recommended by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees will help drive greater expansion of the American scientific enterprise,

and are vital to our remaining a world leader in science and technology as well as economically competitive in the global marketplace.

As the appropriations process moves toward conference, we urge your support for the higher of the House and Senate allocations for NSF, NOAA, and NASA in the final CJS bill. For NSF, this means adopting the House-passed level of \$6.94 billion. Such an appropriation would represent a commitment to putting the agency on a path of sustainable funding growth as prescribed in the America COMPETES Act.

Further, adopting the Senate level of \$4.77 billion for NOAA would help solidify the agency as a key player in the federal weather and climate science enterprise. Especially in light of various proposals now before the Congress that would direct NOAA to play a central role in a new national climate service, it is important that the agency receive the necessary resources to both carry out current research and operations and take on an expanded role in the federal climate science portfolio. Providing the Senate recommendation of \$4.77 billion for FY 2010 will allow NOAA to overcome its past budgetary inadequacies, meet its mission to protect life and property, and to enhance its contribution to federal climate science.

We also urge you to adopt the Senate level of \$4.517 billion for NASA science. NASA's role in monitoring the atmosphere will become ever more vital to our nation's well-being as we combat the threats of climate change to our planet, atmosphere, and daily lives. Appropriating the Senate mark for NASA would allow the agency to continue current efforts and stimulate further progress towards implementing the recommendations of the NASA Decadal Survey.

Failure to pass the CJS bill by September 30 and the subsequent enactment of a CR would impede the ability of NSF, NOAA, and NASA to continue their robust sponsorship of science that is needed to tackle 21<sup>st</sup> century problems and help the country to maintain its edge in innovation and competitiveness. It is therefore imperative that Congress move as quickly as possible to complete work on FY 2010 CJS appropriations.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We appreciate your commitment to promoting excellence and leadership in our nation's science enterprise.

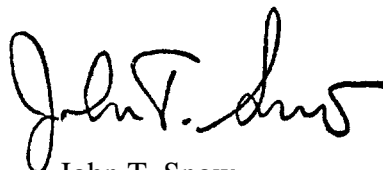
Sincerely,



Richard A. Anthes  
UCAR President



Raymond J. Ban  
Co-chair, Weather Coalition  
Consultant, Weather Industry  
and Government Partnerships



John T. Snow  
Co-chair, Weather Coalition  
Dean, College of Atmospheric and  
Geographic Sciences and Administrator  
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