FY 2010 Appropriations Update
"There has been an absolute commitment to get our appropriation bills done," Senate Majority Leader Reid (D-NV) said prior to the August recess. When Congress returns from its month-long recess next Tuesday, it will have less than a month to complete 12 spending bills. While the House completed its work on the appropriations bills, the Senate has eight bills to move for a full Floor vote, including the Commerce-Justice-State (CJS) bill which funds NSF, NASA and NOAA. Reid has stated that he doesn't want to wrap the bills into another omnibus bill -- Congress prefers passing the spending bills individually, making it easier to scrutinize the bills. Reid has said that the CJS will be the first in line for a full vote, however, the process may be slowed because the Senate is expected to consider healthcare legislation and possibly the energy bill. UCAR, along with the Weather Coalition, has sent the House and Senate leadership a letter urging them to complete the CJS bill. When we see you in October for the annual UCAR meeting, we hope we will have final numbers to report!

Climate Legislation Update
After Labor Day, the Senate will resume work on major climate legislation that will become the companion bill to the U.S. House of Representatives' America's Climate and Energy Security (ACES) Act. As you know, the House passed the ACES Act, sponsored by Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA), on June 26 by a vote of 219 to 212 and referred it to the Senate.

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA), the Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, which has primary jurisdiction over the climate bill, has said she will introduce the first draft of the bill on Sept. 8, although some reports indicate Boxer's introduction may be delayed. This draft will serve as a template for the ensuing legislative debate in the Senate and will likely contain many sections and provisions similar to the House's ACES Act as well as significant differences. Because of the considerable size and scope of the legislation, several other Senate committees are working on sections for inclusion, including the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Finance Committee, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Technology. Boxer has set a Sept. 23 deadline for additions and revisions from the other Committees.

Assuming the Senate sticks to its deadlines, the earliest that the full Senate will consider the bill is the last week of September. More likely, the Senate will consider the bill as late as October or November and only if Majority Leader Harry Reid chooses to bring the bill to the floor for a vote. In the case that he is unable to confirm a whip count of 60 votes, Reid may give up on the bill entirely this year. 60 votes out of 100 are required in the Senate to overcome the threat of a minority filibuster. Current whip counts estimate that 44 Senators are likely in favor, 35 are likely against, and 20 are sitting on the fence. Sen. Ted Kennedy's seat is currently unoccupied.
We are closely monitoring and weighing in as necessary, especially on the sections relevant to climate research and adaptation being drafting by the Commerce, Science, and Technology Committee. This Committee is taking the lead in drafting the parts of the bill which were included in the "Adapting to Climate Change" Title in the ACES Act, including a section to establish a National Climate Service; a section to reauthorize the U.S. Global Change Research Program; and a section that would provide funding to the States for building resilience to the impacts of the climate change. The Committee held a hearing on "Climate Services: Solutions from Commerce to Communities" on July 30, at which Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy John Holdren and Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke testified on the development of a National Climate Service. It is likely that the Committee will use the information gathered at this hearing to develop bill language for the establishment of a National Climate Service.

In the case immediate action in contacting Senators is needed by the community, we will promptly send out an Action Alert requesting your help.

**Administration's FY 2011 Science and Technology Priorities**

The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) issued a memorandum to federal agencies last month laying out the science and technology priorities for the President’s FY11 budget. It lists four “practical challenges” and directs agencies to shift resources from “lower priority areas” to the following:

1. Economic recovery and job creation
2. Promoting innovative energy technologies
3. Improving health care while reducing costs; and
4. National security

To help address these challenges, the memo lists four cross-cutting areas that must be strengthened:

1. Increasing the productivity of our research institutions, including research universities
2. Strengthening science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education
3. Improving and protecting national infrastructure; and
4. Enhancing capabilities in space for economic, national security, and scientific reasons

**Marcia McNutt to be Nominated Head of USGS**

In July, President Obama announced his intent to nominate Marcia McNutt as Director of the United States Geological Survey, the first woman to head the agency. In addition, she will become the Science Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior, a position never previously occupied by the USGS head. McNutt currently heads the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute and has many links to our community. She is a fellow for
the American Geophysical Union, the Geological Society of America, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the International Association of Geodesy, and is a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

**NOAA Working Group Members Announced**

Last year, NOAA's Partnerships Working Group recommended that the Science Advisory Board (SAB) establish a standing working group to address environmental information services across NOAA with a focus on interactions with the National Weather Service. The Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG) was established to advise the SAB on the condition and capabilities of improving communications among the various public, private, and academic entities engaged in environmental information matters and will submit formal reports to the SAB that identify current issues, deficiencies, recommendations for remedial action, and proposed initiatives. It is charged to:

1) provide advice on improving communication among the sectors  
2) provide advice on incorporating scientific and technical capabilities to enhance NOAA products and services  
3) provide a sounding board regarding implementation of NOAA’s Policy on Partnerships in the Provision of Environmental Information  
4) evaluate NOAA effectiveness in responding to advice received from the EISWG, and the environmental information enterprise as a whole, and  
5) evaluate after two years whether this working group is an effective mechanism for working with external partners or whether other mechanisms should be considered.

Members of the EISWG have been announced, and they are listed below:

**Co-Chairs:** Walt Dabberdt, Vaisala and Nancy Colleton, Alliance for Earth Observation  
**Members:**  
Phil Ardanuy, Raytheon Information Solutions  
Bruce Baughman, Innovative Emergency Management, Inc.  
Helen Brohl, Dept. of Transportation  
Eric Grimit, 3TIER, Inc.  
Jeff Lazo, National Center for Atmospheric Research  
Ronald McPherson, Executive Director Emeritus, American Meteorological Society  
Rebecca Morss, National Center for Atmospheric Research  
Barry Myers, AccuWeather, Inc.  
Peter Neilley, Weather Services International, Corp.  
Warren Qualley, Harris Corp.  
Kelly Redmond, Desert Research Institute and Western Regional Climate Center  
Eugene Stallings, EASPE, Inc. / National Hydrologic Warning Council  
John Toohey-Morales, ClimaData Corp.  
Joel Widder, Oldaker, Belair and Wittie, LLP  
Julie Ann Winkler, Michigan State University  
Robert Winokur, Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy  

**National Hurricane Research Initiative**

Last week we reported to you that Senators Martinez and Nelson introduced the National
Hurricane Research Initiative Act (S. 1485) and reported that Senator Nelson is seeking more sponsors (Action Alert). If you have not made the request with your senators, we urge you to do so.

Inaugural Meeting of PCAST focuses on Energy/Environment and Healthcare (reported by Lewis-Burke Associates) On August 6 and 7, the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) held its inaugural meeting under President Obama. PCAST is co-chaired by John Holdren, Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP); Eric Lander, Director of the Broad Institute; and Harold Varmus, President of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. The meeting was attended by all twenty-one of PCAST's members (including UCAR Board of Trustee, Rosina Bierbaum) and provided the attendees with a broad survey of issues of importance to the Obama Administration, including energy and the environment, health information technology, comparative effectiveness research, manufacturing, education, economic development, and international security.

The energy and environment session featured Energy Secretary Steven Chu and representatives from OSTP and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). OSTP is focused on three topics in this area: improving integrated assessment capacity; performing additional climate change adaptation research; and updating and ensuring the long-term sustainability of Earth observing systems. The Administration's efforts in adaptation are expected to include the formation of a new interagency National Climate Service and a shift in priorities for the existing U.S. Global Change Research Program. EPA is planning to use regulatory tools to change both public and private sector behavior in ways that will benefit the environment. In climate and energy, EPA's primary areas of concern are in tools to measure carbon offsets, technologies for carbon capture and storage, climate change adaptation, and enabling adoption of energy efficient technologies and clean energy vehicles.

PCAST members also outlined PCAST's recent discussions on energy and climate issues. Topics included national and international security aspects of the climate and energy challenge, the scale of research and infrastructure that will be needed to transform the economy, American competitiveness and innovation as they relate to new energy technologies, and the current lack of research regarding climate change adaptation. PCAST is also concerned that the observing systems needed to make the sustained, long-term observations necessary to plan for changing environmental needs are not in place.

Other topics discussed at the meeting included PCAST's interests in and planned work on:

- Advanced manufacturing and computing: In the future, PCAST plans to focus on the applications of manufacturing and computing with respect to healthcare, energy, and nanotechnology.
- How to return the U.S. to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education preeminence: Developing curriculum goals based on other successful models; building on progress made in the development of national
standards as supported by Secretary of Education Arne Duncan; enhancing the role of community colleges; and the effectiveness of robotic competitions.

- Economic development: The study of policy tools to enable the government to make the right infrastructure investments going forward; and the value of common standards for new industries and the funding to develop them (i.e. wind energy credits) to enable the federal government to be successful at creating new markets.

- International security: The Test Ban Treaty and nuclear deterrents, and identifying future science missions for weapons laboratories and ways to rekindle scientific expertise as new foreign powers develop nuclear power. PCAST is also interested in an overview of the intellectual goals which drive the national homeland security science and technology portfolio.

- A plan requested by President Obama on the response to the H1N1 flu virus: The value of concrete scenario planning, how to maximize surveillance, near term pathways to vaccine development, known and unknown barriers to success, the keys to effective communications, and the role of future preparedness.