UCAR COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

1. **Protect and Boost Science Agency Funding in FY12 Appropriations.** Both Republican and Democratic leaders understand that research and development is critical to America’s economic competitiveness and innovation edge. FY12 funding for science agencies like NSF, NASA, NOAA, and the DOE Office of Science will fuel the engine of our future economy.

   o **NSF – Support $7.767B request, a 13% increase over FY11**
     - The UCAR community supports the FY12 NSF budget request, which would increase NSF funding 13% over the FY11 funded level.
     - The basic research conducted through NSF grants is critical to the nation’s future economic growth and competitiveness and to training the next generation workforce.
     - NSF has fallen off the doubling track Congress authorized in the America COMPETES Act of 2010. To get NSF back on track to meet the research and competitiveness needs of nation, NSF needs a large increase this year.
     - An NSF increase is our highest priority for the year.

   o **NASA Science Directorate – Support $5.017B request, a 1.5% increase over FY11**
     - The UCAR community supports the proposed 1.5% increase in funding for NASA’s Science Mission Directorate, which funds Earth Science.
     - NASA plays a central role in maintaining and building our nation’s capacity to monitor the Earth’s environment.
     - We urge the implementation of the recommendations of the National Research Council’s Decadal Survey.
     - For the next decade, the Decadal Survey identified and prioritized 15 new space missions for NASA and 3 missions for NOAA (including one joint mission). Missions were prioritized using a “methodology designed to achieve a robust, integrated program.”
     - Importantly, the 17 “missions listed…form a minimal, yet robust, observational component of an Earth information system that is capable of addressing a broad range of societal needs.”

   o **NOAA – Support $5.498B request, a 21.6% increase over FY11**
     - The UCAR community supports the proposed 21.6% increase in NOAA’s funding for FY12, a bump that is necessary to complete the Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS).
     - The JPSS is a critical earth observing mission to replace an aging system of polar-orbiting satellites, and has already been delayed far too long. A gap in polar-orbiting satellite coverage would significantly degrade weather forecasting capabilities as well as research data quality, hurting both the economy and national security.
     - In coordination with the FY12 request, we support NOAA’s efforts to reorganize around a new NOAA Climate Service.
     - Modeled on the National Weather Service, the NOAA Climate Service will be serve as a clearinghouse for authoritative and accurate climate-related science and decision-support products, aimed to help businesses, communities and governments prepare for the coming impacts of climate change.

   o **DOE Office of Science – Support $5.419 request, an 11% increase over FY11**
     - The UCAR community supports the proposed 11% increase in funding for the DOE Office of Science in FY12.
     - The Office of Science is responsible for major activities relating to Earth sciences research, modeling, and energy technology development, including significant support for the NCAR-managed Community Earth System Model (CCSM).
2. **Support R&D programs in the major legislation in line for reauthorization this year, including:**
   - **Farm bill**
     - The Research Title of the Farm bill provides for important research programs like the USDA’s Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the National Institutes of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).
     - In addition to improving nutrition and cutting food costs, agricultural researchers are discovering ways that farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners can contribute to major and sustainable reductions in atmospheric greenhouse gases.
   - **Surface Transportation (SAFETEA-LU) bill**
     - The Surface Transportation Research, Development and Deployment (STRRD) Program promotes innovation in transportation infrastructure, services, and operations.
     - Initiatives like IntelliDrive hold promise for improving safety, congestion, and capacity for Americans roads and highways.
   - **Energy bill**
     - New energy legislation is a great opportunity for Congress to fund more and better research into energy efficiency and renewable energy, to help Americans save money and to make the nation more energy secure.

3. **Please consider joining the newly established Congressional Weather Caucus**
   - Bipartisan and open to any Member of Congress
   - A great way for a Member to demonstrate to his or her constituents a commitment to understanding and managing the impacts of weather on our nation.
   - Given that one third of the nation’s economy is weather-sensitive, this is a valuable commitment for your Member to make.
   - Caucus will host events for the Members on the Hill, such as roundtables, briefings, seminars, and social events.
   - Supported by a Weather Caucus Alliance of businesses, non-profits and scientific societies that have expertise, facilities, and other resources in weather science, forecasting, communication, and management.
   - Focus on education and policy discussion around:
     - Managing the impacts of weather on the nation’s economy and infrastructure, as well as on critical sectors, such as transportation, agriculture, resource management, tourism, sports, and energy production.
     - Managing weather impacts on homeland security and defense facilities and operations.
     - Building the nation’s resilience to severe and high impact weather events.
     - Mitigating the impacts of space weather on the nation’s telecommunications and power-related infrastructure.