



AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

Headquarters: 45 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108-3693 U.S.A. (617) 227-2425
Washington Office: 1120 G Street, N.W., Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 737-9006

Keith L. Seitter, Executive Director
Richard E. Hallgren, Executive Director Emeritus

Ronald D. McPherson, Executive Director Emeritus
Kenneth C. Spengler, Executive Director Emeritus

April 13, 2006

Congressman Frank Wolf
241 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515
Fax: (202) 225-0437

Dear Congressman Wolf,

I am writing on behalf of the 12,000 members of the American Meteorological Society to bring to your attention the importance of the environmental satellite system operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Environmental satellites have become an increasingly vital component of the global observing system for climate monitoring and weather prediction. The Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) constellation, which has been in use since 1975, provides continuous monitoring of meteorological conditions in the Western hemisphere. Operated by NOAA, the two active GOES spacecrafts also monitor the space environment, receive and transmit search-and-rescue data, and relay ground-based environmental platform data.

The next generation of geostationary environmental satellites, GOES-R, is currently under development and is expected to be launched in 2012. Its existence is essential to the continuity of critical data and for improved data capability. GOES-R marks the first technological advance in the GOES instrumentation since 1994, both in terms of quality and quantity of data. Other advances, including improved spacecraft and instrument technologies, will result in more timely and accurate weather forecasts, thus improving support for the detection and observations of meteorological phenomena that directly affect public safety, protection of property, and ultimately, economic health and development. GOES-R has major applications to weather forecasting, climate, hydrology, oceanography, and land use. At the same time, the satellite data processing infrastructure has become more affordable and dependable with advances in network speed and reliability, Internet access, online high-volume data storage, and processing algorithms. These developments have opened up the access of data for increased utilization in the private, public, and educational sectors.

A fully funded GOES-R mission can address many of the issues raised in a recently released statement of the American Meteorological Society, which urged the following actions:

- Maintain uninterrupted operations and global coverage of the Earth from geostationary- and low Earth-orbiting environmental satellites, while moving toward an advanced integrated Earth observation system.
- Continue coordination of both the national and international satellite agencies, and encourage open access to these data.

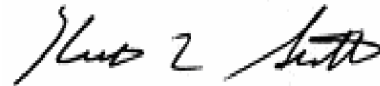
- Accelerate the transition of promising satellite-based technologies from research to operations.
- Support the R&D needed to promptly advance the data and products from “next-generation” satellite sensor systems into operational applications.
- Increase the flexibility of satellite sampling strategies.
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- Stress the importance of accurate calibration of satellite measurements.
- Emphasize education, and promote online training in the use of environmental satellite remote sensing data and products in weather applications.

For additional information, please refer to the American Meteorological Society policy statement on “Research and Operational Use of Environmental Satellites in Weather Applications as Part of an Integrated Earth Observing System,” which can be found at:

<http://www.ametsoc.org/policy/researchsystem.html>.

As you consider NOAA's FY2007 funding request for GOES-R, the members of the American Meteorological Society ask that you keep in mind the many benefits this next generation of satellite will bring, and that you support full funding. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

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Keith L. Seitter
Executive Director
American Meteorological Society



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Kenneth C. Spengler, Executive Director Emeritus

April 13, 2006

Congressman Alan B. Mollohan
2302 Rayburn House Building
Washington, DC 20515
Fax: (202) 225-7564

Dear Congressman Mollohan,

I am writing on behalf of the 12,000 members of the American Meteorological Society to bring to your attention the importance of the environmental satellite system operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Environmental satellites have become an increasingly vital component of the global observing system for climate monitoring and weather prediction. The Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) constellation, which has been in use since 1975, provides continuous monitoring of meteorological conditions in the Western hemisphere. Operated by the NOAA, the two active GOES spacecrafts also monitor the space environment, receive and transmit search-and-rescue data, and relay ground-based environmental platform data.

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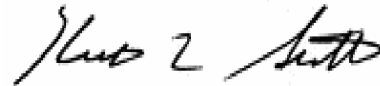
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Keith L. Seitter
Executive Director
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Kenneth C. Spengler, Executive Director Emeritus

April 13, 2006

Representative Sherwood Boehlert
2246 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3223
Fax: 202-225-1891

Dear Representative Boehlert,

I am writing on behalf of the 12,000 members of the American Meteorological Society to bring to your attention the importance of the environmental satellite system operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Environmental satellites have become an increasingly vital component of the global observing system for climate monitoring and weather prediction. The Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) constellation, which has been in use since 1975, provides continuous monitoring of meteorological conditions in the Western hemisphere. Operated by NOAA, the two active GOES spacecrafts also monitor the space environment, receive and transmit search-and-rescue data, and relay ground-based environmental platform data.

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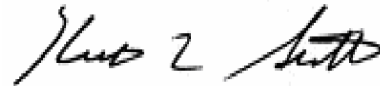
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April 13, 2006

Congressman Bart Gordon
2304 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Fax: (202) 225 6887

Dear Congressman Gordon,

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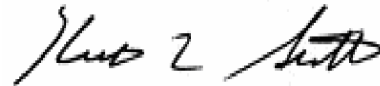
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Kenneth C. Spengler, Executive Director Emeritus

April 13, 2006

Senator Barbara A. Mikulski
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
Fax: 202-224-1651

Dear Senator Mikulski,

I am writing on behalf of the 12,000 members of the American Meteorological Society to bring to your attention the importance of the environmental satellite system operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Environmental satellites have become an increasingly vital component of the global observing system for climate monitoring and weather prediction. The Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) constellation, which has been in use since 1975, provides continuous monitoring of meteorological conditions in the Western hemisphere. Operated by NOAA, the two active GOES spacecrafts also monitor the space environment, receive and transmit search-and-rescue data, and relay ground-based environmental platform data.

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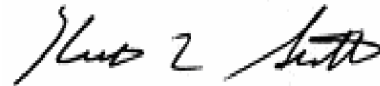
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Kenneth C. Spengler, Executive Director Emeritus

April 13, 2006

Senator Richard C. Shelby
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
Fax: 202-224-3416

Dear Senator Shelby,

I am writing on behalf of the 12,000 members of the American Meteorological Society to bring to your attention the importance of the environmental satellite system operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Environmental satellites have become an increasingly vital component of the global observing system for climate monitoring and weather prediction. The Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) constellation, which has been in use since 1975, provides continuous monitoring of meteorological conditions in the Western hemisphere. Operated by NOAA, the two active GOES spacecrafts also monitor the space environment, receive and transmit search-and-rescue data, and relay ground-based environmental platform data.

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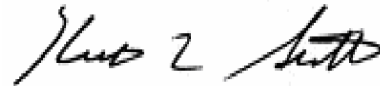
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Kenneth C. Spengler, Executive Director Emeritus

April 13, 2006

Senator Ted Stevens
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
Fax: 202-224-2354

Dear Senator Stevens,

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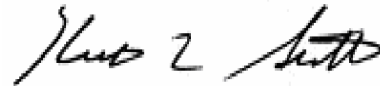
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April 13, 2006

Senator Daniel K. Inouye
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
Fax: 202-224-6747

Dear Senator Inouye,

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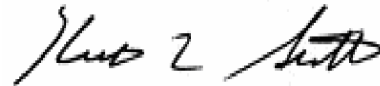
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