



AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

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The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Hagel:

The American Meteorological Society (AMS) joins its voice with scientists from around the world to urge you to prevent the destruction of the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP). The HAARP facility is recognized as the most powerful and capable active upper atmospheric experimental platform of its kind, and represents a research facility of national and international importance.

In its 2009 Statement on the Infrastructure Supporting Weather, Water, Environmental, and Climate Sciences, Services, and Assessments¹, AMS noted that “the infrastructure supporting weather, water, environmental, and climate sciences, services, and assessments is a critical national resource. It is essential for optimal decision-making with respect to the protection of life, mitigating losses, environmental stewardship, efficiency of weather- and climate-sensitive sectors of our economy, *and national security*” [emphasis added]. The AMS statement goes on to note that for observational systems, “a managed, long-term view of observations — past, present, and future — will assure the availability of needed observations, their standardization (performance, accuracy, and siting), and their transition from research into service.” The components form links in a chain. Each is important; the neglect of any diminishes the effectiveness of the whole. The American Meteorological Society urges Congress and the Administration to provide continual attention to, and enhanced support of, these vital national resources in general, and the HAARP facility in particular.

Moreover, in its 2013 Statement on Space Weather², AMS recommended that the Federal government be a leader in ensuring adequate space-based and ground-based observing systems and supporting research that can improve our understanding of processes and impacts. At this point, it is critical that existing observational systems not be dismantled so that HAARP can maintain at least the possibility of finding a sustainable model that would allow it to live up to its potential.

We hope that you will do all in your power to prevent the loss of this important facility.

Sincerely,

Dr. Keith L. Seitter
Executive Director

¹ http://www.ametsoc.org/policy/2009infrastructure-support_amsstatement.html

² http://www.ametsoc.org/policy/2013spaceweather_amsstatement.html