



AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

45 BEACON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108-3693 U.S.A.

TEL: 617-227-2425
FAX: 617-742-8718
E-MAIL: amsinfo@ametsoc.org
WEB: www.ametsoc.org

KEITH L. SEITTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
E-MAIL: kseitter@ametsoc.org

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Sen. John Kerry
218 Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

On behalf of the American Meteorological Society (AMS), I am writing in reference to the bill with the short title “Strengthening The Resiliency of Our Nation on the Ground Act” (STRONG Act), which we understand you will be introducing. The AMS strongly supports legislative efforts that will increase the resiliency of our nation to natural hazards of all types. I commend you and your staff for your ongoing efforts to improve the nation’s resiliency to natural hazards.

In a 2008 Statement of the AMS entitled “National Weather and Climate Priorities,”¹ the Society called for Congress and the Executive Branch to work with the scientific community to address the challenges posed to our nation by extreme weather events and climate change. A particular goal cited in that statement was to “create public, private, and academic partnerships that can develop better approaches and tools to plan, prepare for, and cope with local and regional weather and climate impacts.” Legislation such as the STRONG Act provides a framework for this goal to be achieved.

The AMS Statement also notes that addressing the challenges we face “requires that we develop national policies based on the best available physical and social science; that we put what we know into practice; that we continually *advance* our science and services; and that we learn from experience.” The AMS community possesses vast expertise in atmospheric and related sciences and is dedicated to fostering informed policy choices to build a more resilient nation. The Society stands ready to work with you and others on the Hill to ensure that legislative efforts are grounded in the best available scientific knowledge and understanding.

Sincerely,

Keith L. Seitter
Executive Director

¹See: http://www.ametsoc.org/policy/2008nationalpriorities_amsstatement.html