



## AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Keith L. Seitter, Executive Director

Richard E. Hallgren, Executive Director Emeritus  
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Kenneth C. Spengler, Executive Director Emeritus

2 August 2007

The Honorable Daniel Inouye, Chairman  
The Honorable Ted Stevens, Ranking Minority Leader  
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Inouye and Stevens,

On behalf of the American Meteorological Society (AMS), I am writing in support of Bill S. 931, the National Hurricane Research Initiative Act of 2007. As noted in the recent report from the National Science Board, *Hurricane Warning: The Critical Need for a National Hurricane Research Initiative*, hurricanes account for half of the damage inflicted by weather hazards in this country and have risen to an average of over \$35 billion per year over the past five years. Understanding hurricanes better will lead to improvements in track and intensity forecasts which can translate into better preparedness for coastal and inland communities, saving lives and reducing devastating impacts.

The pending legislation to establish a National Hurricane Research Initiative represents an important step in making progress on this issue. The AMS especially applauds the inclusion of study of infrastructure and communications associated with disaster response and recovery in the Bill. In fact, the Bill could and should be strengthened by additional explicit reference to and accommodation for social-science research (focusing, for example, on the social factors that enhance or decrease coastal vulnerability and community resilience, the need for economic loss assessments, and especially the need to learn lessons by studying previous experience, asking the question “what went wrong?”). The impacts felt in the wake of Hurricane Katrina — despite a good meteorological forecast of the hurricane — emphasize the need for additional research and development in these areas.

The American Meteorological Society is committed to the protection of life and property. Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific hurricanes pose a serious threat to the Nation, and losses are growing. The proposed legislation calls for prudent investments that will yield benefits many times greater, not just in the near term, but for years to come.

Sincerely,

Keith Seitter  
Executive Director



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The Honorable Bart Gordon, Chairman  
The Honorable Ralph Hall, Ranking Minority Leader  
Committee on Science and Technology  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Gordon and Hall,

On behalf of the American Meteorological Society (AMS), I am writing in support of the Bill H.R. 2407, the National Hurricane Research Initiative Act of 2007. As noted in the recent report from the National Science Board, *Hurricane Warning: The Critical Need for a National Hurricane Research Initiative*, hurricanes account for half of the damage inflicted by weather hazards in this country and have risen to an average of over \$35 billion per year over the past five years. Understanding hurricanes better will lead to improvements in track and intensity forecasts which can translate into better preparedness for coastal and inland communities, saving lives and reducing devastating impacts.

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