

Media Coverage Report

News Date	News Headline	Contact Name	Outlet Name
09/28/2012	Weatherproof Nation Experts Call For Official US Weather Commission		Albuquerque Express
09/26/2012	TOWARD A U.S. WEATHER COMMISSION - CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING		AP Alert - DC Daybook
09/28/2012	Creation of U.S. Weather Commission urged		Big News Network
09/27/2012	Meteorology leaders press Congress for U.S. Weather Commission - Capital Weather Gang - The Washington Post		Capital Weather Gang
09/27/2012	Creation of US Weather Commission Urged		Cincinnati Enquirer - Online (press release)
09/27/2012	Creation of US Weather Commission Urged		CIO Finance - Online
09/27/2012	Coalition Urges Congress to Create a National Weather Commission	Koss, Geof	Congressional Quarterly (CQ) Weekly
09/26/2012	CQ Today	Koss, Geof	CQ Today
10/02/2012	Climate Change and Technological Innovation Requires a U.S. Weather Commission	David Hosansky	Cutting Edge News, The
09/29/2012	Agency could unify weather response	Peggy Heinkel	Denton Record-Chronicle - Online
09/28/2012	Experts Hope to Establish Congressional Weather Commission		Environmental News Network - Online
09/27/2012	Experts call on Congress to create first US Weather Commission		EurekAlert!
09/27/2012	Creation of US Weather Commission Urged		eZanga (press release)
09/28/2012	Meteorologists ask lawmakers for a weather commission		Government Executive
10/04/2012	Meteorologists ask lawmakers for a weather commission	Matthew Cooper	Government Executive
09/27/2012	Creation of US Weather Commission Urged	webmaster@hispanicbusiness.com	HispanicBusiness.com
09/27/2012	Creation of U.S. Weather Commission urged		Individual.com
09/28/2012	Lawmakers Are Asked for a Weather Commission		Influence Alley
09/27/2012	Creation of U.S. Weather Commission urged Online Journal		Intrepid Report
10/03/2012	Experts Call on Congress for First U.S. Weather Commission		Iowa Ag Connection
10/03/2012	Experts Call on Congress for First U.S. Weather Commission	Daniel L. Schiller	Kentucky Ag Connection

U.S. Weather Commission

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News Date	News Headline	Contact Name	Outlet Name
09/28/2012	Weatherproof Nation Experts Call For Official US Weather Commission		Kenya Star
09/27/2012	Creation of US Weather Commission Urged		Markets.financialcontent.com
10/03/2012	Experts Call on Congress for First U.S. Weather Commission	Daniel L. Schiller	Michigan Ag Connection
10/03/2012	Experts Call on Congress for First U.S. Weather Commission	Daniel L. Schiller	Minnesota Ag Connection
10/03/2012	Experts Call on Congress for First U.S. Weather Commission	Daniel L. Schiller	Missouri Ag Connection
09/28/2012	Lawmakers Are Asked for a Weather Commission	Cooper, Matthew	National Journal Daily
09/27/2012	Experts Call on Congress to Create First U.S. Weather Commission		Newswise
09/28/2012	Weatherproof Nation Experts Call For Official US Weather Commission		North Korea Times
10/03/2012	Experts Call on Congress for First U.S. Weather Commission	Daniel L. Schiller	Ohio Ag Connection
10/03/2012	Experts Call on Congress for First U.S. Weather Commission	Daniel L. Schiller	Pennsylvania Ag Connection
09/27/2012	Experts call on Congress to create first US Weather Commission		PHYS.org
09/28/2012	Weatherproof Nation: Experts Call For Official US Weather Commission	April Flowers	RedOrbit
09/27/2012	Experts Call on Congress to Create First U.S. Weather Commission		ScienceDaily
10/03/2012	Experts Call on Congress for First U.S. Weather Commission	Daniel L. Schiller	South Dakota Ag Connection
09/28/2012	Expert panel calls for national weather commission	Bob Berwyn	Summit County Citizens Voice
10/01/2012	Weather community seeks commission for communicating with Congress	Tom	Tom Nelson
09/28/2012	Weatherproof Nation: Experts Call For Official US Weather Commission		Toronto Telegraph
09/26/2012	Creation of U.S. Weather Commission urged		United Press International (UPI)
09/27/2012	Creation of U.S. Weather Commission urged		UPI.com
10/03/2012	Experts Call on Congress for First U.S. Weather Commission		usagnet
09/28/2012	Will a new Weather Commission' be a benefit or a travesty?	Anthony Watts	Watts Up With That
09/27/2012	Experts to Congress: Create Weather Commission		Weather Channel - Online, The

U.S. Weather Commission

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News Date	News Headline	Contact Name	Outlet Name
09/29/2012	Experts call on Congress to create first US Weather Commission		Webnewswire.com/
10/02/2012	Federal Drive interviews - Oct. 3, 2012 - Dr. Tom Bogdan		WFED-AM (Federal News Radio)
10/03/2012	Experts Call on Congress for First U.S. Weather Commission	Daniel L. Schiller	Wisconsin Ag Connection
09/27/2012	Creation of US Weather Commission Urged		WLS-TV - Online (press release)
10/03/2012	is calling for a weather commission the nonprofit University		WTOP-FM
10/02/2012	Filtered on National Science Foundation - Silobreaker		www.silobreaker.com

Headline: Weatherproof Nation Experts Call For Official US Weather Commission
Date: 9/28/2012 5:57:54 PM
Media Contact:
Media Outlet: Albuquerque Express
Attachment Link: <http://www.albuquerqueexpress.com/index.php/sid/209597640/scat/a9927dde6777aafc>

April Flowers for redOrbit.com - Your Universe Online

An expert panel called on Congress yesterday to create the first U.S. Weather Commission to help guide policymakers to leverage weather expertise across government and the private sector. The goal is to better protect lives and businesses during weather events that could conceivably cost billions of dollars.

“The nation must focus its weather resources on the areas of greatest need in order to keep our economy competitive and provide maximum protection of lives and property,” said Thomas Bogdan, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. “Emerging technologies are providing an opportunity to create forecasts that are more accurate and detailed than ever, and to communicate them instantly to key communities and businesses. We need a U.S. Weather Commission to ensure that our entire weather research and technology enterprise provides maximum benefit to the nation.”

The commission would advise federal policymakers on setting priorities for improving forecasts and creating a more weatherproof nation. Normal fluctuations in weather have an estimated economic impact of \$485 billion annually. Add that to the \$52 billion price tag of major storms just last year, and it becomes clear that the goal for this commission would be to ensure cost-effective spending on the nation’s weather systems while minimizing the economic impact of the weather itself.

The National Academy of Sciences released a hallmark report earlier this year entitled “Weather Services for the Nation: Becoming Second to None.” This report concluded that the country faces challenges in harnessing the best science and private resources available for protecting the nation from weather impacts, even with the recent concerted efforts to modernize the National Weather Service.

The report identifies those challenges as being rooted in evolving scientific and technological advances, rapidly changing needs of the nation’s weather information consumers, and an increasingly capable and growing third-party community of weather service providers.

Twice in the past, Congress has created an ocean commission for setting direction on commerce, research, and defense related to the world’s oceans. However, there has never been a U.S. Weather Commission, even though weather has far-reaching effects on all Americans.

The commissioners would provide guidance on such issues as appropriate investments in satellite and radar systems, protecting vulnerable communities, setting research priorities, and meeting the needs of key sectors, ranging from agriculture to utilities to the U.S. Armed Forces.

“Weather is immeasurably important to public safety and our economic competitiveness,” says Pam Emch, a senior staff engineer/scientist with Northrop Grumman Corporation and one of the panelists. “Effective organization of the diverse entities that span our weather enterprise is necessary for economic stability, innovation, and the good of the nation.”

“Improved weather information can be an engine for economic growth,” says panelist William Gail, of the Global Weather Corporation. “As we develop increasingly detailed understanding of our atmosphere, there is enormous potential for helping the public and businesses.”

“We must keep pace with accelerating scientific and technological advances and meet expanding user

needs in our increasingly information-centric society,” says panelist John Armstrong, chair of the Committee on the Assessment of the National Weather Service’s Modernization Program.

Guided by key actors across the entire weather enterprise, the commission approach will provide needed direction and consensus.

“The U.S. Weather Commission offers the promise of better research, state-of-the-art prediction, and protection for the health and prosperity of the U.S.,” Bogdan says. “It will also foster growth for the innovative private weather sector we have all come to rely upon. This is an issue that affects all members of Congress and all their constituents, no matter where they live.”

The panel briefing today was the first step in a process that will continue into the next Congress. Next, the panel will brief staff and members on the importance of the commission and the role it will play in an attempt to garner their guidance and support for establishing the commission in 2013.

Source: April Flowers for redOrbit.com - Your Universe Online

redOrbit (<http://s.tt/1oCRe>)

Headline: TOWARD A U.S. WEATHER COMMISSION - CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

Date: 9/26/2012 10:00:00 PM

Media Contact:

Media Outlet: AP Alert - DC Daybook

12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. TOWARD A U.S. WEATHER COMMISSION - CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING _
Congressional Briefing: Toward a U.S. Weather Commission - Protecting Lives, Livelihoods, and the
American Economy. Moderator: Scott Rayder, Senior Advisor to the President, University Corporation for
Atmospheric Research. Speakers: Dr. John Armstrong, Chair, Committee on the Assessment of the
National Weather Service Modernization Program; Dr. William Gail, Co-founder and Chief Technology
Officer Global Weather Corporation; Dr. Pamela Emch, Senior Staff Engineer/Scientist, Northrop
Grumman Aerospace Systems; Dr. Thomas Bogdan, President, University Corporation for Atmospheric
Research.

Location: 2325 Rayburn.

Contacts: David Hosansky hosansky@ucar.edu (303-497-8611, 720-470-2073 C)

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Headline: Creation of U.S. Weather Commission urged
Date: 9/28/2012 12:29:34 AM
Media Contact:
Media Outlet: Big News Network
Attachment Link: <http://www.bignetwork.com/index.php/sid/209574810/scat/9d7afd9766a94f28/ht/Creation-of-US-Weather-Commission-urged>

Creation of U.S. Weather Commission urged

Big News Network (UPI) Friday 28th September, 2012

WASHINGTON -- With the U.S. economy vulnerable to weather events costing billions of dollars, Congress should create a U.S. Weather Commission, an expert panel said.

The task of the commission would be to provide guidance to policymakers on leveraging weather expertise across government and the private sector to better protect lives and businesses, the National Center for Atmospheric Research reported Thursday.

The Committee on the Assessment of the National Weather Service's Modernization Program noted Congress has previously created ocean commissions for setting direction on commerce, research, and defense related to the world's oceans but there has never been a U.S. Weather Commission.

"The nation must focus its weather resources on the areas of greatest need in order to keep our economy competitive and provide maximum protection of lives and property," Thomas Bogdan, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, said.

"Emerging technologies are providing an opportunity to create forecasts that are more accurate and detailed than ever, and to communicate them instantly to key communities and businesses.

Such a commission would ensure cost-effective spending on the nation's weather systems while minimizing the impacts of both major storms, which last year alone cost about \$52 billion, and normal fluctuations in weather, which have an estimated annual economic impact of \$485 billion, the panel said.

"We need a U.S. Weather Commission to ensure that our entire weather research and technology enterprise provides maximum benefit to the nation," Bogdan said.

Headline: Meteorology leaders press Congress for U.S. Weather Commission - Capital Weather Gang - The Washington Post

Date: 9/27/2012 2:46:33 PM

Media Contact:

Media Outlet: Capital Weather Gang

Attachment Link: http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/capital-weather-gang/post/meteorology-leaders-press-congress-for-us-weather-commission/2012/09/27/b0b11952-08d7-11e2-a10c-fa5a255a9258_blog.html

By Jason Samenow

Weather disasters in the U.S. in 2011 carried a \$52 billion price tag. What's more, the University Center for Atmospheric Research estimates day-to-day weather fluctuations cost nearly half a trillion dollars each year.

A coalition of meteorology leaders asked Congress today to create the first-ever U.S. Weather Commission to confront the costs of weather on the U.S. economy and its toll on human lives.

The University Center for Atmospheric Research, which helped to convene the Congressional briefing, says the commission "would advise federal policymakers on setting priorities for improving forecasts and creating a more weather-proof nation."

More specifically, the commission would educate Congress on the appropriate satellite and radar investments, research priorities, and the needs of key sectors, UCAR says.

For example, the U.S. may face a gap in weather satellite coverage in 2017. A recent report of the National Academy of Sciences warned "our ability to observe and understand the Earth" will decline unless needed investments in satellites are made.

At the same time, the U.S. is lagging the Europeans in numerical weather prediction and the computing resources necessary to improve forecasts. Such a commission might help make critical recommendations for prioritizing funding.

UCAR notes Congress has twice established an ocean commission, but that - to date - a weather commission has never been created.

At today's Congressional briefing, representatives from a coalition of groups stressed the potential benefits of such a commission.

"Improved weather information can be an engine for economic growth," said panelist William Gail, chief technology officer of Global Weather Corporation. "As we develop increasingly detailed understanding of our atmosphere, there is enormous potential for helping the public and businesses."

The coalition is aiming to have a commission set-up in 2013 and intends to follow today's event with Congressional staff and member briefings.

Link: Weather Channel video on proposed commission, includes interview with Thomas Bogdan, UCAR president

Headline: Creation of US Weather Commission Urged
Date: 9/27/2012 6:54:37 PM
Media Contact:
Media Outlet: Cincinnati Enquirer - Online (press release)
Attachment Link: http://finance.cincinnati.com/gannett/theenquirer/news/read/22366008/creation_of_us_weather_commission_urged

With the U.S. economy vulnerable to weather events costing billions of dollars, Congress should create a U.S. Weather Commission, an expert panel said.

The task of the commission would be to provide guidance to policymakers on leveraging weather expertise across government and the private sector to better protect lives and businesses, the National Center for Atmospheric Research reported Thursday.

The Committee on the Assessment of the National Weather Service's Modernization Program noted Congress has previously created ocean commissions for setting direction on commerce, research, and defense related to the world's oceans but there has never been a U.S. Weather Commission.

"The nation must focus its weather resources on the areas of greatest need in order to keep our economy competitive and provide maximum protection of lives and property," Thomas Bogdan, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, said.

"Emerging technologies are providing an opportunity to create forecasts that are more accurate and detailed than ever, and to communicate them instantly to key communities and businesses.

Such a commission would ensure cost-effective spending on the nation's weather systems while minimizing the impacts of both major storms, which last year alone cost about \$52 billion, and normal fluctuations in weather, which have an estimated annual economic impact of \$485 billion, the panel said.

"We need a U.S. Weather Commission to ensure that our entire weather research and technology enterprise provides maximum benefit to the nation," Bogdan said.

Source: Copyright United Press International 2012

Headline: Creation of US Weather Commission Urged
Date: 9/27/2012 8:58:24 PM
Media Contact:
Media Outlet: CIO Finance - Online
Attachment Link: http://finance.cio.com/idg_cio/news/read/22366008/creation_of_us_weather_commission_urged

With the U.S. economy vulnerable to weather events costing billions of dollars, Congress should create a U.S. Weather Commission, an expert panel said.

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Source: Copyright United Press International 2012

Headline: Coalition Urges Congress to Create a National Weather Commission
Date: 9/27/2012 3:18:00 PM
Media Contact: Koss, Geof
Media Outlet: Congressional Quarterly (CQ) Weekly

With much of the nation mired in drought and economic damages from extreme weather events mounting, a broad stakeholder coalition is calling on Congress to create a National Weather Commission to improve weather forecasting.

Backers of the plan, which include private sector companies, professional associations and academic interests, said at a congressional briefing Thursday that such a commission would leverage public and private expertise to better predict extreme «weather» events, which last year inflicted an estimated \$52 billion in damages in the United States alone.

“There will be another event,” said Thomas Bogdan, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, which is spearheading the effort. “There will be another economic impact. We know it’s the right time to do this.”

The commission would advise federal policy makers on how to improve forecasting, with the goal of minimizing the costly impacts of extreme «weather» events and normal fluctuations.

The push for congressional action follows a National Academy of Sciences report released in August on modernization efforts at the National Weather Service. The report recommended greater partnering with the private sector and other organizations involved in «weather» research.

William Gail, a co-founder of Global Weather Corp., which provides forecasting services to businesses, said there is great potential for private-public partnerships. “Improved weather information can be an engine for economic growth,” he said.

He cited examples of companies funding weather research to improve their bottom lines, as well as business decisions that turned costly because of unseasonal weather.

There is historical precedent for such a commission, which Congress has twice created to develop ocean policies. One such panel, created by a 1966 law (PL 89-454) and known as the Stratton «Commission», led to the creation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. A second commission, created by a 2000 law (PL 106-256), led to a lengthy report of recommendations for an ocean policy.

In response to a question from the audience, Bogdan said he hoped a «weather»«commission» would produce concrete results through a stakeholder dialogue on better forecasting.

“It can’t just be about government paying for more,” he said.

Backers of a weather commission described Thursday’s briefing as the first step in their effort to see legislation introduced and signed into law in the next Congress.

Headline: CQ Today
Date: 9/26/2012 10:00:00 PM
Media Contact: Koss, Geof
Media Outlet: CQ Today

With much of the nation mired in drought and economic damages from extreme weather events mounting, a broad stakeholder coalition is calling on Congress to create a National Weather Commission to improve weather forecasting.

Backers of the plan, which include private sector companies, professional associations and academic interests, said at a congressional briefing Thursday that such a commission would leverage public and private expertise to better predict extreme weather events, which last year inflicted an estimated \$52 billion in damages in the United States alone.

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"It can't just be about government paying for more," he said.

Backers of a weather commission described Thursday's briefing as the first step in their effort to see legislation introduced and signed into law in the next Congress.

Source: CQ Today
Round-the-clock coverage of news from Capitol Hill.
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Headline: Climate Change and Technological Innovation Requires a U.S. Weather Commission
Date: 10/2/2012 10:32:19 PM
Media Contact: David Hosansky
Media Outlet: Cutting Edge News, The
Attachment Link: <http://www.thecuttingedgenews.com/index.php?article=76316>

With the U.S. economy vulnerable to weather events costing billions of dollars, an expert panel today asked Congress to create the first U.S. Weather Commission. The commission would provide guidance to policymakers on leveraging weather expertise across government and the private sector to better protect lives and businesses.

"The nation must focus its weather resources on the areas of greatest need in order to keep our economy competitive and provide maximum protection of lives and property," says Thomas Bogdan, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. "Emerging technologies are providing an opportunity to create forecasts that are more accurate and detailed than ever, and to communicate them instantly to key communities and businesses. We need a U.S. Weather Commission to ensure that our entire weather research and technology enterprise provides maximum benefit to the nation."

At a time of fast-changing technological innovation, the commission would advise federal policymakers on setting priorities for improving forecasts and creating a more weather-proof nation. The goal is to help ensure cost-effective spending on the nation's weather systems while minimizing the impacts of both major storms, which last year alone cost about \$52 billion, and normal fluctuations in weather, which have an estimated annual economic impact of \$485 billion.

Earlier this year, the National Academy of Sciences released a hallmark report, *Weather Services for the Nation: Becoming Second to None*. The report concluded that, even with recent concerted and much-needed efforts to modernize the National Weather Service, the country faces challenges in harnessing the best science and private sector resources available for protecting the nation from weather impacts.

These challenges are rooted in evolving scientific and technological advances, rapidly changing needs of the nation's weather information consumers, and an increasingly capable and growing third-party community of weather services providers.

Congress has twice created an ocean commission for setting direction on commerce, research, and defense related to the world's oceans. But there has never been a U.S. Weather Commission, even though weather has far-reaching effects on all Americans.

Commissioners would provide guidance on issues such as making appropriate investments in satellite and radar systems, protecting vulnerable communities, setting research priorities, and meeting the needs of key sectors, ranging from agriculture to utilities to the U.S. armed forces.

"Weather is immeasurably important to public safety and our economic competitiveness," says Pam Emch, a senior staff engineer/scientist with Northrop Grumman Corporation and one of the panelists. "Effective organization of the diverse entities that span our weather enterprise is necessary for economic stability, innovation, and the good of the nation."

"Improved weather information can be an engine for economic growth," says panelist William Gail, co-founder and chief technology officer of the Global Weather Corporation. "As we develop increasingly detailed understanding of our atmosphere, there is enormous potential for helping the public and businesses."

"We must keep pace with accelerating scientific and technological advances and meet expanding user

needs in our increasingly information-centric society," says panelist John Armstrong, chair of the Committee on the Assessment of the National Weather Service's Modernization Program.

Bogdan says that a commission approach, guided by key actors across the entire weather enterprise, will provide needed direction and consensus.

"The U.S. Weather Commission offers the promise of better research, state-of-the-art prediction, and protection for the health and prosperity of the U.S.," he says. "It will also foster growth for the innovative private weather sector we have all come to rely upon. This is an issue that affects all members of Congress and all their constituents, no matter where they live."

Today's panel briefing was the first step in a process that will continue into the next Congress. The panel's next steps are to brief staff and members on the importance of the commission and the role it will play, seeking their guidance and support for establishing the commission in 2013.

Headline: Agency could unify weather response
Date: 9/29/2012 11:42:57 PM
Media Contact: Peggy Heinkel
Media Outlet: Denton Record-Chronicle - Online
Attachment Link: <http://www.dentonrc.com/local-news/local-news-headlines/20120929-agency-could-unify-weather-response.ece>

Drivers ignore barricades as water rises on Locust Street in April 2007. Denton County was declared a federal disaster area that year.

Panel proposes that U.S. create commission

By Peggy Heinkel-Wolfe / Staff Writer

Published: 29 September 2012 11:55 PM

A panel of weather experts asked Congress this week to create the first U.S. Weather Commission.

The proposed agency would bring together resources in the public and private sectors to better predict and respond to severe weather. That, in turn, could reduce loss of life and property damage, officials said. The U.S. Weather Commission is modeled, in part, after the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, which from 2000 to 2004 made recommendations to better manage coastal resources.

Severe weather cost the nation \$52 billion last year, said Tom Bogdan, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, based in Boulder, Colo. Bogdan was among those on the panel who detailed for members of the House Science Committee the fast-changing weather technology and the challenges needed to apply it in daily life.

Years ago, being able to predict a hurricane's path three days in advance was considered good, Bogdan said. Now, research is accurately predicting a path seven days in advance, he said.

The weather commission could help with the swifter transfer of research knowledge to the field, he said.

"Imagine having a week's notice to evacuate," Bogdan said.

More time to prepare also means more time to mitigate damage and make a faster recovery, Bogdan said.

But that better coordination and sharing of weather data and technology could do more than help with the losses from hurricanes, Bogdan said. It could also help business logistics, so that a trucking company, for example, doesn't lose an expensive shipment of medicine because it didn't have good information about an incoming snowstorm.

Texas sees some of the biggest weather losses in the nation because the state is vulnerable not only to hurricanes and tornadoes, but also to damaging thunderstorms, drought and wildfires. Some of the losses come from big-ticket items like Hurricane Ike, which cost about \$12 billion in 2010, and last year's hailstorm in Dallas, which saw between \$1 billion and \$1.5 billion in insurance claims.

Denton County also has seen some big wind and water losses in the past five years, according to Texas Department of Insurance data obtained in an open-records request. Wind and water claims in 2011 topped \$418 million, due in part to catastrophic hailstorms. By comparison, 2010 saw the least wind and water claims in the past five years, but the total was still more than \$47.4 million.

Researchers at the University of North Texas have looked at ways to limit damage from natural disasters, said Terry Clower, professor of applied economics.

“An agency that improves our ability to predict the weather is great, but what I’d want to see is a return-on-investment analysis,” he said.

The agency would have its own expenses in order to get up and running. Ultimately, the commission’s work should yield cost savings, not just a stronger voice for spending on projects Congress already knows the country needs, Clower said.

PEGGY HEINKEL-WOLFE can be reached at 940-566-6881. Her e-mail address is pheinkel-wolfe@dentonrc.com.

Headline: Experts Hope to Establish Congressional Weather Commission

Date: 9/28/2012 2:08:24 PM

Media Contact:

Media Outlet: Environmental News Network - Online

Attachment Link: <http://www.enn.com/climate/article/45020>

Allison Winter

From energy freedom to ocean policy focusing on commerce, research, and defense, Congress has appointed a variety of environmental-based commissions in the past two decades. However, one issue that has yet to be addressed is weather—that is until now.

Experts are asking Congress to create the first US Weather Commission. This commission would offer guidance of their weather expertise to policy makers who would then be able to make more efficient decisions when it comes to weather-related issues.

"The nation must focus its weather resources on the areas of greatest need in order to keep our economy competitive and provide maximum protection of lives and property," says Thomas Bogdan, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research.

It comes down to the fact that better forecasting will save lives and save money. Right now the private, public, and academic sectors all have their own prerogatives. If these sectors came together, under the guidance of a government-based commission, the sectors would be able share responsibilities and data.

The goal would be to ensure cost-effective spending on the nation's weather systems while minimizing the impacts of both major storms. From hurricanes to hail storms, droughts and floods, weather related events cost about \$52 billion last year alone. Also, normal fluctuations in weather, like the changing of seasons have an estimated annual economic impact of \$485 billion. The costs associated with weather range from delays with construction and transportation to salting icy streets and cleaning up natural disasters.

While we physically cannot control weather patterns, experts can advise populations on how to minimize the impacts of major storms.

While it may be a challenge to convince Washington to spend money to create this commission, experts will argue that investments made in weather actually have a return with not only providing jobs, but saving money in the long run by minimizing disaster impacts.

The commission would also advise on new technology investments like satellite and radar systems, while highlighting vulnerable communities, and prioritizing research matters.

"Weather is immeasurably important to public safety and our economic competitiveness," says Pam Emch, a senior staff engineer/scientist with Northrop Grumman Corporation and one of the panelists. "Effective organization of the diverse entities that span our weather enterprise is necessary for economic stability, innovation, and the good of the nation."

Today's panel briefing is the first step in a process in an effort to brief and convince Congress on the importance of the commission and the role it will play.

Read more at the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research.

Weather words image via Shutterstock.

Headline: Experts call on Congress to create first US Weather Commission
Date: 9/27/2012 2:57:55 PM
Media Contact:
Media Outlet: EurekAlert!
Attachment Link: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2012-09/ncfa-eco092712.php

WASHINGTON, D.C. – With the U.S. economy vulnerable to weather events costing billions of dollars, an expert panel today asked Congress to create the first U.S. Weather Commission. The commission would provide guidance to policymakers on leveraging weather expertise across government and the private sector to better protect lives and businesses.

"The nation must focus its weather resources on the areas of greatest need in order to keep our economy competitive and provide maximum protection of lives and property," says Thomas Bogdan, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. "Emerging technologies are providing an opportunity to create forecasts that are more accurate and detailed than ever, and to communicate them instantly to key communities and businesses. We need a U.S. Weather Commission to ensure that our entire weather research and technology enterprise provides maximum benefit to the nation."

At a time of fast-changing technological innovation, the commission would advise federal policymakers on setting priorities for improving forecasts and creating a more weather-proof nation. The goal is to help ensure cost-effective spending on the nation's weather systems while minimizing the impacts of both major storms, which last year alone cost about \$52 billion, and normal fluctuations in weather, which have an estimated annual economic impact of \$485 billion.

Earlier this year, the National Academy of Sciences released a hallmark report, *Weather Services for the Nation: Becoming Second to None*. The report concluded that, even with recent concerted and much-needed efforts to modernize the National Weather Service, the country faces challenges in harnessing the best science and private sector resources available for protecting the nation from weather impacts.

These challenges are rooted in evolving scientific and technological advances, rapidly changing needs of the nation's weather information consumers, and an increasingly capable and growing third-party community of weather services providers.

Congress has twice created an ocean commission for setting direction on commerce, research, and defense related to the world's oceans. But there has never been a U.S. Weather Commission, even though weather has far-reaching effects on all Americans.

Commissioners would provide guidance on issues such as making appropriate investments in satellite and radar systems, protecting vulnerable communities, setting research priorities, and meeting the needs of key sectors, ranging from agriculture to utilities to the U.S. armed forces.

"Weather is immeasurably important to public safety and our economic competitiveness," says Pam Emch, a senior staff engineer/scientist with Northrop Grumman Corporation and one of the panelists. "Effective organization of the diverse entities that span our weather enterprise is necessary for economic stability, innovation, and the good of the nation."

"Improved weather information can be an engine for economic growth," says panelist William Gail, co-founder and chief technology officer of the Global Weather Corporation. "As we develop increasingly detailed understanding of our atmosphere, there is enormous potential for helping the public and businesses."

"We must keep pace with accelerating scientific and technological advances and meet expanding user needs in our increasingly information-centric society," says panelist John Armstrong, chair of the

Committee on the Assessment of the National Weather Service's Modernization Program.

Bogdan says that a commission approach, guided by key actors across the entire weather enterprise, will provide needed direction and consensus.

"The U.S. Weather Commission offers the promise of better research, state-of-the-art prediction, and protection for the health and prosperity of the U.S.," he says. "It will also foster growth for the innovative private weather sector we have all come to rely upon. This is an issue that affects all members of Congress and all their constituents, no matter where they live."

Today's panel briefing was the first step in a process that will continue into the next Congress. The panel's next steps are to brief staff and members on the importance of the commission and the role it will play, seeking their guidance and support for establishing the commission in 2013.

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The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research manages the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, under sponsorship by the National Science Foundation. Any opinions, findings and conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

On the Web:

For news releases, images, and more www.ucar.edu/atmosnews

Headline: Creation of US Weather Commission Urged
Date: 9/27/2012 6:22:01 PM
Media Contact:
Media Outlet: eZanga (press release)
Attachment Link: http://finance.ezanga.com/ezanga/news/read/22366008/creation_of_us_weather_commission_urged

With the U.S. economy vulnerable to weather events costing billions of dollars, Congress should create a U.S. Weather Commission, an expert panel said.

The task of the commission would be to provide guidance to policymakers on leveraging weather expertise across government and the private sector to better protect lives and businesses, the National Center for Atmospheric Research reported Thursday.

The Committee on the Assessment of the National Weather Service's Modernization Program noted Congress has previously created ocean commissions for setting direction on commerce, research, and defense related to the world's oceans but there has never been a U.S. Weather Commission.

"The nation must focus its weather resources on the areas of greatest need in order to keep our economy competitive and provide maximum protection of lives and property," Thomas Bogdan, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, said.

"Emerging technologies are providing an opportunity to create forecasts that are more accurate and detailed than ever, and to communicate them instantly to key communities and businesses.

Such a commission would ensure cost-effective spending on the nation's weather systems while minimizing the impacts of both major storms, which last year alone cost about \$52 billion, and normal fluctuations in weather, which have an estimated annual economic impact of \$485 billion, the panel said.

"We need a U.S. Weather Commission to ensure that our entire weather research and technology enterprise provides maximum benefit to the nation," Bogdan said.

Source: Copyright United Press International 2012

Headline: Meteorologists ask lawmakers for a weather commission
Date: 9/28/2012 3:07:04 PM
Media Contact:
Media Outlet: Government Executive
Attachment Link: <http://www.govexec.com/technology/2012/09/meteorologists-ask-lawmakers-weather-commission/58460/>

By Matthew Cooper
National Journal
4:49 PM ET
0 Comments

A coalition of meteorologists is asking Congress to create a weather commission to examine how best to improve forecasting and help the country deal with billions of dollars of weather-related damages each year.

The University Center for Atmospheric Research "would advise federal policymakers on setting priorities for improving forecasts and creating a more weather-proof nation."

The plea came while Congress was out of town and the capital continued to enjoy great fall weather.

Headline: Meteorologists ask lawmakers for a weather commission
Date: 10/4/2012 8:50:31 AM
Media Contact: Matthew Cooper
Media Outlet: Government Executive
Attachment Link: <http://www.govexec.com/technology/2012/09/meteorologists-ask-lawmakers-weather-commission/58460/?oref=dropdown>

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Headline: Creation of US Weather Commission Urged
Date: 9/27/2012 4:34:33 PM
Media Contact: webmaster@hispanicbusiness.com
Media Outlet: HispanicBusiness.com
Attachment Link: http://www.hispanicbusiness.com/2012/9/27/creation_of_us_weather_commission_urged.htm

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"We need a U.S. Weather Commission to ensure that our entire weather research and technology enterprise provides maximum benefit to the nation," Bogdan said.

Source: Copyright United Press International 2012

Headline: Creation of U.S. Weather Commission urged
Date: 9/27/2012 2:33:02 PM
Media Contact:
Media Outlet: Individual.com
Attachment Link: <http://www.individual.com/storyrss.php?story=164068220&hash=82dce958fa631c00b0bcd27f10540e9f>

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www.upi.com

Headline: Lawmakers Are Asked for a Weather Commission
Date: 9/28/2012 8:31:23 PM
Media Contact:
Media Outlet: Influence Alley
Attachment Link: <http://influencealley.nationaljournal.com/2012/09/lawmakers-are-asked-for-a-weat.php>

By Matthew Cooper
September 28, 2012 | 3:44 p.m. | 1

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University Center for Atmospheric Research

Headline: Creation of U.S. Weather Commission urged | Online Journal
Date: 9/27/2012 10:32:24 PM
Media Contact:
Media Outlet: Intrepid Report
Attachment Link: <http://www.onlinejournal.com/science/creation-of-us-weather-commission-urged/>

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Headline: Experts Call on Congress for First U.S. Weather Commission
Date: 10/3/2012 10:11:22 AM
Media Contact:
Media Outlet: Iowa Ag Connection
Attachment Link: <http://www.iowaagconnection.com/story-national.php?id=2229&yr=2012>

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"We must keep pace with accelerating scientific and technological advances and meet expanding user needs in our increasingly information-centric society," says panelist John Armstrong, chair of the

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Bogdan says that a commission approach, guided by key actors across the entire weather enterprise, will provide needed direction and consensus.

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Headline: Experts Call on Congress for First U.S. Weather Commission
Date: 10/3/2012 9:32:34 AM
Media Contact: Daniel L. Schiller
Media Outlet: Kentucky Ag Connection
Attachment Link: <http://www.kentuckyagconnection.com/story-national.php?id=2229&yr=2012>

National & World Ag News Headlines
Experts Call on Congress for First U.S. Weather Commission
USAgNet - 10/03/2012

With the U.S. economy vulnerable to weather events costing billions of dollars, an expert panel today asked Congress to create the first U.S. Weather Commission. The commission would provide guidance to policymakers on leveraging weather expertise across government and the private sector to better protect lives and businesses.

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businesses."

"We must keep pace with accelerating scientific and technological advances and meet expanding user needs in our increasingly information-centric society," says panelist John Armstrong, chair of the Committee on the Assessment of the National Weather Service's Modernization Program.

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"The U.S. Weather Commission offers the promise of better research, state-of-the-art prediction, and protection for the health and prosperity of the U.S.," he says. "It will also foster growth for the innovative private weather sector we have all come to rely upon. This is an issue that affects all members of Congress and all their constituents, no matter where they live."

Today's panel briefing was the first step in a process that will continue into the next Congress. The panel's next steps are to brief staff and members on the importance of the commission and the role it will play, seeking their guidance and support for establishing the commission in 2013.

Headline: Weatherproof Nation Experts Call For Official US Weather Commission
Date: 9/28/2012 2:30:04 PM
Media Contact:
Media Outlet: Kenya Star
Attachment Link: <http://www.kenyastar.com/index.php/sid/209597640/scat/a9927dde6777aafc>

An expert panel called on Congress yesterday to create the first U.S. Weather Commission to help guide policymakers to leverage weather expertise across government and the private sector. The goal is to better protect lives and businesses during weather events that could conceivably cost billions of dollars.

“The nation must focus its weather resources on the areas of greatest need in order to keep our economy competitive and provide maximum protection of lives and property,” said Thomas Bogdan, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. “Emerging technologies are providing an opportunity to create forecasts that are more accurate and detailed than ever, and to communicate them instantly to key communities and businesses. We need a U.S. Weather Commission to ensure that our entire weather research and technology enterprise provides maximum benefit to the nation.”

The commission would advise federal policymakers on setting priorities for improving forecasts and creating a more weatherproof nation. Normal fluctuations in weather have an estimated economic impact of \$485 billion annually. Add that to the \$52 billion price tag of major storms just last year, and it becomes clear that the goal for this commission would be to ensure cost-effective spending on the nation’s weather systems while minimizing the economic impact of the weather itself.

The National Academy of Sciences released a hallmark report earlier this year entitled “Weather Services for the Nation: Becoming Second to None.” This report concluded that the country faces challenges in harnessing the best science and private resources available for protecting the nation from weather impacts, even with the recent concerted efforts to modernize the National Weather Service.

The report identifies those challenges as being rooted in evolving scientific and technological advances, rapidly changing needs of the nation’s weather information consumers, and an increasingly capable and growing third-party community of weather service providers.

Twice in the past, Congress has created an ocean commission for setting direction on commerce, research, and defense related to the world’s oceans. However, there has never been a U.S. Weather Commission, even though weather has far-reaching effects on all Americans.

The commissioners would provide guidance on such issues as appropriate investments in satellite and radar systems, protecting vulnerable communities, setting research priorities, and meeting the needs of key sectors, ranging from agriculture to utilities to the U.S. Armed Forces.

“Weather is immeasurably important to public safety and our economic competitiveness,” says Pam Emch, a senior staff engineer/scientist with Northrop Grumman Corporation and one of the panelists. “Effective organization of the diverse entities that span our weather enterprise is necessary for economic stability, innovation, and the good of the nation.”

“Improved weather information can be an engine for economic growth,” says panelist William Gail, of the Global Weather Corporation. “As we develop increasingly detailed understanding of our atmosphere, there is enormous potential for helping the public and businesses.”

“We must keep pace with accelerating scientific and technological advances and meet expanding user needs in our increasingly information-centric society,” says panelist John Armstrong, chair of the Committee on the Assessment of the National Weather Service’s Modernization Program.

Guided by key actors across the entire weather enterprise, the commission approach will provide needed direction and consensus.

“The U.S. Weather Commission offers the promise of better research, state-of-the-art prediction, and protection for the health and prosperity of the U.S.,” Bogdan says. “It will also foster growth for the innovative private weather sector we have all come to rely upon. This is an issue that affects all members of Congress and all their constituents, no matter where they live.”

The panel briefing today was the first step in a process that will continue into the next Congress. Next, the panel will brief staff and members on the importance of the commission and the role it will play in an attempt to garner their guidance and support for establishing the commission in 2013.

redOrbit (<http://s.tt/1oCRe>)

Headline: Creation of US Weather Commission Urged
Date: 9/27/2012 6:25:35 PM
Media Contact:
Media Outlet: Markets.financialcontent.com
Attachment Link: http://markets.financialcontent.com/stocks/news/read/22366008/Creation_of_US_Weather_Commission_Urged

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Such a commission would ensure cost-effective spending on the nation's weather systems while minimizing the impacts of both major storms, which last year alone cost about \$52 billion, and normal fluctuations in weather, which have an estimated annual economic impact of \$485 billion, the panel said.

"We need a U.S. Weather Commission to ensure that our entire weather research and technology enterprise provides maximum benefit to the nation," Bogdan said.

Source: Copyright United Press International 2012

Headline: Experts Call on Congress for First U.S. Weather Commission
Date: 10/3/2012 9:25:57 AM
Media Contact: Daniel L. Schiller
Media Outlet: Michigan Ag Connection
Attachment Link: <http://www.michiganagconnection.com/story-national.php?id=2229&yr=2012>

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At a time of fast-changing technological innovation, the commission would advise federal policymakers on setting priorities for improving forecasts and creating a more weather-proof nation. The goal is to help ensure cost-effective spending on the nation's weather systems while minimizing the impacts of both major storms, which last year alone cost about \$52 billion, and normal fluctuations in weather, which have an estimated annual economic impact of \$485 billion.

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Headline: Experts Call on Congress for First U.S. Weather Commission
Date: 10/3/2012 11:11:00 AM
Media Contact: Daniel L. Schiller
Media Outlet: Minnesota Ag Connection
Attachment Link: <http://www.minnesotaagconnection.com/story-national.php?id=2229&yr=2012>

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Headline: Experts Call on Congress for First U.S. Weather Commission
Date: 10/3/2012 2:58:29 PM
Media Contact: Daniel L. Schiller
Media Outlet: Missouri Ag Connection
Attachment Link: <http://www.missouriagconnection.com/story-national.php?Id=2229&yr=2012>

With the U.S. economy vulnerable to weather events costing billions of dollars, an expert panel today asked Congress to create the first U.S. Weather Commission. The commission would provide guidance to policymakers on leveraging weather expertise across government and the private sector to better protect lives and businesses.

"The nation must focus its weather resources on the areas of greatest need in order to keep our economy competitive and provide maximum protection of lives and property," says Thomas Bogdan, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. "Emerging technologies are providing an opportunity to create forecasts that are more accurate and detailed than ever, and to communicate them instantly to key communities and businesses. We need a U.S. Weather Commission to ensure that our entire weather research and technology enterprise provides maximum benefit to the nation."

At a time of fast-changing technological innovation, the commission would advise federal policymakers on setting priorities for improving forecasts and creating a more weather-proof nation. The goal is to help ensure cost-effective spending on the nation's weather systems while minimizing the impacts of both major storms, which last year alone cost about \$52 billion, and normal fluctuations in weather, which have an estimated annual economic impact of \$485 billion.

Earlier this year, the National Academy of Sciences released a hallmark report, *Weather Services for the Nation: Becoming Second to None*. The report concluded that, even with recent concerted and much-needed efforts to modernize the National Weather Service, the country faces challenges in harnessing the best science and private sector resources available for protecting the nation from weather impacts.

These challenges are rooted in evolving scientific and technological advances, rapidly changing needs of the nation's weather information consumers, and an increasingly capable and growing third-party community of weather services providers.

Congress has twice created an ocean commission for setting direction on commerce, research, and defense related to the world's oceans. But there has never been a U.S. Weather Commission, even though weather has far-reaching effects on all Americans.

Commissioners would provide guidance on issues such as making appropriate investments in satellite and radar systems, protecting vulnerable communities, setting research priorities, and meeting the needs of key sectors, ranging from agriculture to utilities to the U.S. armed forces.

"Weather is immeasurably important to public safety and our economic competitiveness," says Pam Emch, a senior staff engineer/scientist with Northrop Grumman Corporation and one of the panelists. "Effective organization of the diverse entities that span our weather enterprise is necessary for economic stability, innovation, and the good of the nation."

"Improved weather information can be an engine for economic growth," says panelist William Gail, co-founder and chief technology officer of the Global Weather Corporation. "As we develop increasingly detailed understanding of our atmosphere, there is enormous potential for helping the public and businesses."

"We must keep pace with accelerating scientific and technological advances and meet expanding user needs in our increasingly information-centric society," says panelist John Armstrong, chair of the

Committee on the Assessment of the National Weather Service's Modernization Program.

Bogdan says that a commission approach, guided by key actors across the entire weather enterprise, will provide needed direction and consensus.

"The U.S. Weather Commission offers the promise of better research, state-of-the-art prediction, and protection for the health and prosperity of the U.S.," he says. "It will also foster growth for the innovative private weather sector we have all come to rely upon. This is an issue that affects all members of Congress and all their constituents, no matter where they live."

Today's panel briefing was the first step in a process that will continue into the next Congress. The panel's next steps are to brief staff and members on the importance of the commission and the role it will play, seeking their guidance and support for establishing the commission in 2013.

Headline: Lawmakers Are Asked for a Weather Commission
Date: 9/28/2012 3:04:18 PM
Media Contact: Cooper, Matthew
Media Outlet: National Journal Daily
Attachment Link: <http://influencealley.nationaljournal.com/2012/09/lawmakers-are-asked-for-a-weat.php>

A coalition of meteorologists is asking Congress to create a weather commission to examine how best to improve forecasting and help the country deal with billions of dollars of weather-related damages each year.

The University Center for Atmospheric Research "would advise federal policymakers on setting priorities for improving forecasts and creating a more weather-proof nation."

The plea came while Congress was out of town and the capital continued to enjoy great fall weather.

Headline: Experts Call on Congress to Create First U.S. Weather Commission
Date: 9/27/2012 7:33:35 AM
Media Contact:
Media Outlet: Newswise
Attachment Link: <http://www.newswise.com/articles/experts-call-on-congress-to-create-first-u-s-weather-commission>

Released: 9/27/2012 8:00 AM EDT Source: National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)

Newswise – WASHINGTON, D.C. – With the U.S. economy vulnerable to weather events costing billions of dollars, an expert panel today asked Congress to create the first U.S. Weather Commission. The commission would provide guidance to policymakers on leveraging weather expertise across government and the private sector to better protect lives and businesses.

“The nation must focus its weather resources on the areas of greatest need in order to keep our economy competitive and provide maximum protection of lives and property,” says Thomas Bogdan, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. “Emerging technologies are providing an opportunity to create forecasts that are more accurate and detailed than ever, and to communicate them instantly to key communities and businesses. We need a U.S. Weather Commission to ensure that our entire weather research and technology enterprise provides maximum benefit to the nation.”

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The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research manages the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, under sponsorship by the National Science Foundation. Any opinions, findings and conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

On the Web:

For news releases, images, and more
www.ucar.edu/atmosnews

Headline: Weatherproof Nation Experts Call For Official US Weather Commission
Date: 9/28/2012 4:24:35 PM
Media Contact:
Media Outlet: North Korea Times
Attachment Link: <http://www.northkoreatimes.com/index.php/sid/209597640/scat/a9927dde6777aafc>

April Flowers for redOrbit.com - Your Universe Online

An expert panel called on Congress yesterday to create the first U.S. Weather Commission to help guide policymakers to leverage weather expertise across government and the private sector. The goal is to better protect lives and businesses during weather events that could conceivably cost billions of dollars.

“The nation must focus its weather resources on the areas of greatest need in order to keep our economy competitive and provide maximum protection of lives and property,” said Thomas Bogdan, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. “Emerging technologies are providing an opportunity to create forecasts that are more accurate and detailed than ever, and to communicate them instantly to key communities and businesses. We need a U.S. Weather Commission to ensure that our entire weather research and technology enterprise provides maximum benefit to the nation.”

The commission would advise federal policymakers on setting priorities for improving forecasts and creating a more weatherproof nation. Normal fluctuations in weather have an estimated economic impact of \$485 billion annually. Add that to the \$52 billion price tag of major storms just last year, and it becomes clear that the goal for this commission would be to ensure cost-effective spending on the nation’s weather systems while minimizing the economic impact of the weather itself.

The National Academy of Sciences released a hallmark report earlier this year entitled “Weather Services for the Nation: Becoming Second to None.” This report concluded that the country faces challenges in harnessing the best science and private resources available for protecting the nation from weather impacts, even with the recent concerted efforts to modernize the National Weather Service.

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Source: April Flowers for redOrbit.com - Your Universe Online

redOrbit (<http://s.tt/1oCRe>)

Headline: Experts Call on Congress for First U.S. Weather Commission
Date: 10/3/2012 10:33:06 AM
Media Contact: Daniel L. Schiller
Media Outlet: Ohio Ag Connection
Attachment Link: <http://www.ohioagconnection.com/story-national.php?id=2229&yr=2012>

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Headline: Experts Call on Congress for First U.S. Weather Commission
Date: 10/3/2012 12:45:07 PM
Media Contact: Daniel L. Schiller
Media Outlet: Pennsylvania Ag Connection
Attachment Link: <http://www.pennsylvaniaagconnection.com/story-national.php?id=2229&yr=2012>

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Headline: Experts call on Congress to create first US Weather Commission
Date: 9/27/2012 6:14:03 PM
Media Contact:
Media Outlet: PHYS.org
Attachment Link: <http://phys.org/news/2012-09-experts-congress-weather-commission.html>

A supercell thunderstorm menaces central Oklahoma on May 17, 2010. Tornadoes and hurricanes have killed more than 2,000 Americans and wreaked billions of dollars in damage over the last decade. Credit: ©UCAR. Photo by Carlye Calvin.

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Download Google Chrome - A free browser that lets you do more of what you like on the web - www.google.com/chrome Commissioners would provide guidance on issues such as making appropriate investments in satellite and radar systems, protecting vulnerable communities, setting research priorities, and meeting the needs of key sectors, ranging from agriculture to utilities to the U.S. armed forces. "Weather is immeasurably important to public safety and our economic competitiveness," says Pam Emch, a senior staff engineer/scientist with Northrop Grumman Corporation and one of the panelists. "Effective organization of the diverse entities that span our weather enterprise is necessary for economic stability, innovation, and the good of the nation." "Improved weather information can be an engine for economic growth," says panelist William Gail, co-founder and chief technology officer of the Global Weather Corporation. "As we develop increasingly detailed understanding of our atmosphere, there is enormous potential for helping the public and businesses." "We must keep pace with accelerating scientific and technological advances and meet expanding user needs in our increasingly information-centric society," says panelist John Armstrong, chair of the Committee on the Assessment of the National Weather Service's Modernization Program. Bogdan says that a commission approach, guided by key actors across the entire weather enterprise, will provide needed direction and consensus. "The U.S. Weather Commission offers the promise of better research, state-of-the-art prediction, and protection for the health and prosperity of the U.S.," he says. "It will also foster growth for the innovative private weather sector we have all come to rely upon. This is an issue that affects all members of Congress and all their constituents, no matter where they live." Today's panel briefing was the first step in a process that will continue into the next Congress. The panel's next steps are to brief staff and members on the importance

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Read more at: <http://phys.org/news/2012-09-experts-congress-weather-commission.html#jCp>

Headline: Weatherproof Nation: Experts Call For Official US Weather Commission
Date: 9/28/2012 1:31:13 PM
Media Contact: April Flowers
Media Outlet: RedOrbit
Attachment Link: <http://www.redorbit.com/news/science/1112702922/weather-commission-weatherproof-nation-092812/>

April Flowers for redOrbit.com - Your Universe Online

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Source: April Flowers for redOrbit.com - Your Universe Online

redOrbit (<http://s.tt/1oCRe>)

Headline: Experts Call on Congress to Create First U.S. Weather Commission

Date: 9/27/2012 8:28:11 PM

Media Contact:

Media Outlet: ScienceDaily

Attachment Link: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/09/120927123648.htm>

ScienceDaily (Sep. 27, 2012) – With the U.S. economy vulnerable to weather events costing billions of dollars, an expert panel has asked Congress to create the first U.S. Weather Commission. The commission would provide guidance to policymakers on leveraging weather expertise across government and the private sector to better protect lives and businesses.

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The September 27 panel briefing was the first step in a process that will continue into the next Congress. The panel's next steps are to brief staff and members on the importance of the commission and the role it will play, seeking their guidance and support for establishing the commission in 2013.

The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research manages the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, under sponsorship by the National Science Foundation. Any opinions, findings and conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

Headline: Experts Call on Congress for First U.S. Weather Commission
Date: 10/3/2012 2:46:29 PM
Media Contact: Daniel L. Schiller
Media Outlet: South Dakota Ag Connection
Attachment Link: <http://www.southdakotaagconnection.com/story-national.php?id=2229&yr=2012>

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"The nation must focus its weather resources on the areas of greatest need in order to keep our economy competitive and provide maximum protection of lives and property," says Thomas Bogdan, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. "Emerging technologies are providing an opportunity to create forecasts that are more accurate and detailed than ever, and to communicate them instantly to key communities and businesses. We need a U.S. Weather Commission to ensure that our entire weather research and technology enterprise provides maximum benefit to the nation."

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Earlier this year, the National Academy of Sciences released a hallmark report, *Weather Services for the Nation: Becoming Second to None*. The report concluded that, even with recent concerted and much-needed efforts to modernize the National Weather Service, the country faces challenges in harnessing the best science and private sector resources available for protecting the nation from weather impacts.

These challenges are rooted in evolving scientific and technological advances, rapidly changing needs of the nation's weather information consumers, and an increasingly capable and growing third-party community of weather services providers.

Congress has twice created an ocean commission for setting direction on commerce, research, and defense related to the world's oceans. But there has never been a U.S. Weather Commission, even though weather has far-reaching effects on all Americans.

Commissioners would provide guidance on issues such as making appropriate investments in satellite and radar systems, protecting vulnerable communities, setting research priorities, and meeting the needs of key sectors, ranging from agriculture to utilities to the U.S. armed forces.

"Weather is immeasurably important to public safety and our economic competitiveness," says Pam Emch, a senior staff engineer/scientist with Northrop Grumman Corporation and one of the panelists. "Effective organization of the diverse entities that span our weather enterprise is necessary for economic stability, innovation, and the good of the nation."

"Improved weather information can be an engine for economic growth," says panelist William Gail, co-founder and chief technology officer of the Global Weather Corporation. "As we develop increasingly detailed understanding of our atmosphere, there is enormous potential for helping the public and businesses."

"We must keep pace with accelerating scientific and technological advances and meet expanding user needs in our increasingly information-centric society," says panelist John Armstrong, chair of the

Committee on the Assessment of the National Weather Service's Modernization Program.

Bogdan says that a commission approach, guided by key actors across the entire weather enterprise, will provide needed direction and consensus.

"The U.S. Weather Commission offers the promise of better research, state-of-the-art prediction, and protection for the health and prosperity of the U.S.," he says. "It will also foster growth for the innovative private weather sector we have all come to rely upon. This is an issue that affects all members of Congress and all their constituents, no matter where they live."

Today's panel briefing was the first step in a process that will continue into the next Congress. The panel's next steps are to brief staff and members on the importance of the commission and the role it will play, seeking their guidance and support for establishing the commission in 2013.

Headline: Expert panel calls for national weather commission
Date: 9/28/2012 12:12:44 AM
Media Contact: Bob Berwyn
Media Outlet: Summit County Citizens Voice
Attachment Link: <http://summitcountyvoice.com/2012/09/28/expert-panel-calls-for-national-weather-commission/>

Emerging technologies, private-public cooperation could boost country's weather readiness and mitigate impact of costly weather events

A national weather commission could help better prepare the U.S. for impacts from extreme weather events that may increase as the global climate warms. Photo by Bob Berwyn.

By Summit Voice

SUMMIT COUNTY – A panel of weather experts this week said the U.S. needs a national weather commission to help policy makers leverage weather expertise and shape a response to weather events that cost billions of dollars.

The commission would bridge the gap between government and the private sector to better protect lives and businesses.

“The nation must focus its weather resources on the areas of greatest need in order to keep our economy competitive and provide maximum protection of lives and property,” said Thomas Bogdan, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. “Emerging technologies are providing an opportunity to create forecasts that are more accurate and detailed than ever, and to communicate them instantly to key communities and businesses,” Bogdan said.

The commission would advise federal policymakers on setting priorities for improving forecasts and creating a more weather-proof nation. The goal is to help ensure cost-effective spending on the nation's weather systems while minimizing the impacts of both major storms, which last year alone cost about \$52 billion, and normal fluctuations in weather, which have an estimated annual economic impact of \$485 billion.

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Commissioners would provide guidance on issues such as making appropriate investments in satellite and radar systems, protecting vulnerable communities, setting research priorities, and meeting the needs of key sectors, ranging from agriculture to utilities to the U.S. armed forces.

“Weather is immeasurably important to public safety and our economic competitiveness,” said Pam Emch, a senior staff engineer/scientist with Northrop Grumman Corporation and one of the panelists.

“Effective organization of the diverse entities that span our weather enterprise is necessary for economic stability, innovation, and the good of the nation.”

“Improved weather information can be an engine for economic growth,” said panelist William Gail, co-founder and chief technology officer of the Global Weather Corporation. “As we develop increasingly detailed understanding of our atmosphere, there is enormous potential for helping the public and businesses,” Gail said.

Bogdan said that a commission approach, guided by key actors across the entire weather enterprise, will provide needed direction and consensus.

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Today’s panel briefing was the first step in a process that will continue into the next Congress. The panel’s next steps are to brief staff and members on the importance of the commission and the role it will play, seeking their guidance and support for establishing the commission in 2013.

Headline: Weather community seeks commission for communicating with Congress
Date: 10/1/2012 3:26:00 PM
Media Contact: Tom
Media Outlet: Tom Nelson
Attachment Link: <http://tomnelson.blogspot.com/2012/10/frosts-could-affect-apple-harvest-in.html>

Weather disasters in the U.S. in 2011 carried a \$52 billion price tag. What's more, the University Center for Atmospheric Research estimates day-to-day weather fluctuations cost nearly half a trillion dollars each year.

A coalition of meteorology leaders asked Congress today to create the first-ever U.S. Weather Commission to confront the costs of weather on the U.S. economy and its toll on human lives.

The University Center for Atmospheric Research, which helped to convene the Congressional briefing, says the commission "would advise federal policymakers on setting priorities for improving forecasts and creating a more weather-proof nation."

More specifically, the commission would educate Congress on the appropriate satellite and radar investments, research priorities, and the needs of key sectors, UCAR says.

For example, the U.S. may face a gap in weather satellite coverage in 2017. A recent report of the National Academy of Sciences warned "our ability to observe and understand the Earth" will decline unless needed investments in satellites are made.

At the same time, the U.S. is lagging the Europeans in numerical weather prediction and the computing resources necessary to improve forecasts. Such a commission might help make critical recommendations for prioritizing funding.

UCAR notes Congress has twice established an ocean commission, but that - to date - a weather commission has never been created.

At today's Congressional briefing, representatives from a coalition of groups stressed the potential benefits of such a commission.

"Improved weather information can be an engine for economic growth," said panelist William Gail, chief technology officer of Global Weather Corporation. "As we develop increasingly detailed understanding of our atmosphere, there is enormous potential for helping the public and businesses."

The coalition is aiming to have a commission set-up in 2013 and intends to follow today's event with Congressional staff and member briefings.

Headline: Weatherproof Nation: Experts Call For Official US Weather Commission

Date: 9/28/2012 4:00:32 PM

Media Contact:

Media Outlet: Toronto Telegraph

Attachment Link: <http://www.torontotelegraph.com/index.php/sid/209597640/scat/a9927dde6777aafc>

An expert panel called on Congress yesterday to create the first U.S. Weather Commission to help guide policymakers to leverage weather expertise across government and the private sector. The goal is to better protect lives and businesses during weather events that could conceivably cost billions of dollars.

“The nation must focus its weather resources on the areas of greatest need in order to keep our economy competitive and provide maximum protection of lives and property,” said Thomas Bogdan, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. “Emerging technologies are providing an opportunity to create forecasts that are more accurate and detailed than ever, and to communicate them instantly to key communities and businesses. We need a U.S. Weather Commission to ensure that our entire weather research and technology enterprise provides maximum benefit to the nation.”

The commission would advise federal policymakers on setting priorities for improving forecasts and creating a more weatherproof nation. Normal fluctuations in weather have an estimated economic impact of \$485 billion annually. Add that to the \$52 billion price tag of major storms just last year, and it becomes clear that the goal for this commission would be to ensure cost-effective spending on the nation’s weather systems while minimizing the economic impact of the weather itself.

The National Academy of Sciences released a hallmark report earlier this year entitled “Weather Services for the Nation: Becoming Second to None.” This report concluded that the country faces challenges in harnessing the best science and private resources available for protecting the nation from weather impacts, even with the recent concerted efforts to modernize the National Weather Service.

The report identifies those challenges as being rooted in evolving scientific and technological advances, rapidly changing needs of the nation’s weather information consumers, and an increasingly capable and growing third-party community of weather service providers.

Twice in the past, Congress has created an ocean commission for setting direction on commerce, research, and defense related to the world’s oceans. However, there has never been a U.S. Weather Commission, even though weather has far-reaching effects on all Americans.

The commissioners would provide guidance on such issues as appropriate investments in satellite and radar systems, protecting vulnerable communities, setting research priorities, and meeting the needs of key sectors, ranging from agriculture to utilities to the U.S. Armed Forces.

“Weather is immeasurably important to public safety and our economic competitiveness,” says Pam Emch, a senior staff engineer/scientist with Northrop Grumman Corporation and one of the panelists. “Effective organization of the diverse entities that span our weather enterprise is necessary for economic stability, innovation, and the good of the nation.”

“Improved weather information can be an engine for economic growth,” says panelist William Gail, of the Global Weather Corporation. “As we develop increasingly detailed understanding of our atmosphere, there is enormous potential for helping the public and businesses.”

“We must keep pace with accelerating scientific and technological advances and meet expanding user needs in our increasingly information-centric society,” says panelist John Armstrong, chair of the Committee on the Assessment of the National Weather Service’s Modernization Program.

Guided by key actors across the entire weather enterprise, the commission approach will provide needed direction and consensus.

“The U.S. Weather Commission offers the promise of better research, state-of-the-art prediction, and protection for the health and prosperity of the U.S.,” Bogdan says. “It will also foster growth for the innovative private weather sector we have all come to rely upon. This is an issue that affects all members of Congress and all their constituents, no matter where they live.”

The panel briefing today was the first step in a process that will continue into the next Congress. Next, the panel will brief staff and members on the importance of the commission and the role it will play in an attempt to garner their guidance and support for establishing the commission in 2013.

redOrbit (<http://s.tt/1oCRe>)

Headline: Creation of U.S. Weather Commission urged

Date: 9/26/2012 10:00:00 PM

Media Contact:

Media Outlet: United Press International (UPI)

With the U.S. economy vulnerable to weather events costing billions of dollars, Congress should create a U.S. Weather Commission, an expert panel said.

The task of the commission would be to provide guidance to policymakers on leveraging weather expertise across government and the private sector to better protect lives and businesses, the National Center for Atmospheric Research reported Thursday.

The Committee on the Assessment of the National Weather Service's Modernization Program noted Congress has previously created ocean commissions for setting direction on commerce, research, and defense related to the world's oceans but there has never been a U.S. Weather Commission.

"The nation must focus its weather resources on the areas of greatest need in order to keep our economy competitive and provide maximum protection of lives and property," Thomas Bogdan, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, said.

"Emerging technologies are providing an opportunity to create forecasts that are more accurate and detailed than ever, and to communicate them instantly to key communities and businesses.

Such a commission would ensure cost-effective spending on the nation's weather systems while minimizing the impacts of both major storms, which last year alone cost about \$52 billion, and normal fluctuations in weather, which have an estimated annual economic impact of \$485 billion, the panel said.

"We need a U.S. Weather Commission to ensure that our entire weather research and technology enterprise provides maximum benefit to the nation," Bogdan said.

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Headline: Creation of U.S. Weather Commission urged
Date: 9/27/2012 3:20:59 PM
Media Contact:
Media Outlet: UPI.com
Attachment Link: http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2012/09/27/Creation-of-US-Weather-Commission-urged/UPI-58561348776938/?spt=hs&or=sn

Published: Sept. 27, 2012 at 4:15 PM

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27 (UPI) -- With the U.S. economy vulnerable to weather events costing billions of dollars, Congress should create a U.S. Weather Commission, an expert panel said.

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The Committee on the Assessment of the National Weather Service's Modernization Program noted Congress has previously created ocean commissions for setting direction on commerce, research, and defense related to the world's oceans but there has never been a U.S. Weather Commission.

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"We need a U.S. Weather Commission to ensure that our entire weather research and technology enterprise provides maximum benefit to the nation," Bogdan said.

Read more: http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2012/09/27/Creation-of-US-Weather-Commission-urged/UPI-58561348776938/#ixzz285K8XFuy

Headline: Experts Call on Congress for First U.S. Weather Commission

Date: 10/3/2012 9:13:27 AM

Media Contact:

Media Outlet: usagnet

Attachment Link: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?id=2229&yr=2012>

With the U.S. economy vulnerable to weather events costing billions of dollars, an expert panel today asked Congress to create the first U.S. Weather Commission. The commission would provide guidance to policymakers on leveraging weather expertise across government and the private sector to better protect lives and businesses.

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Today's panel briefing was the first step in a process that will continue into the next Congress. The panel's next steps are to brief staff and members on the importance of the commission and the role it will play, seeking their guidance and support for establishing the commission in 2013.

Headline: Will a new Weather Commission' be a benefit or a travesty?
Date: 9/28/2012 2:50:11 PM
Media Contact: Anthony Watts
Media Outlet: Watts Up With That
Attachment Link: <http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/09/28/will-a-new-weather-commission-be-a-benefit-or-a-travesty/>

Posted on September 28, 2012 by Anthony Watts

A supercell thunderstorm menaces central Oklahoma on May 17, 2010. Tornadoes and hurricanes have killed more than 2,000 Americans and wreaked billions of dollars in damage over the last decade. Credit: ©UCAR. Photo by Carlye Calvin.

This smells like Trenberth's doings at the behest of Al Gore and his "Dirty Weather" Campaign. If so, then I'm against it, because all this will do is create another bureaucracy loaded with opinionated thinkers sucking up more tax dollars adding to the already out of control federal deficit.

Experts call on Congress to create first US Weather Commission

WASHINGTON, D.C. – With the U.S. economy vulnerable to weather events costing billions of dollars, an expert panel today asked Congress to create the first U.S. Weather Commission. The commission would provide guidance to policymakers on leveraging weather expertise across government and the private sector to better protect lives and businesses.

"The nation must focus its weather resources on the areas of greatest need in order to keep our economy competitive and provide maximum protection of lives and property," says Thomas Bogdan, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. "Emerging technologies are providing an opportunity to create forecasts that are more accurate and detailed than ever, and to communicate them instantly to key communities and businesses. We need a U.S. Weather Commission to ensure that our entire weather research and technology enterprise provides maximum benefit to the nation."

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Headline: Experts to Congress: Create Weather Commission
Date: 9/27/2012 11:11:57 AM
Media Contact:
Media Outlet: Weather Channel - Online, The
Attachment Link: <http://www.weather.com/news/panel-calls-for-weather-commission-20120927>

WASHINGTON, D.C. – With the U.S. economy vulnerable to weather events costing billions of dollars, an expert panel on Thursday asked Congress to create the first U.S. Weather Commission.

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(MORE: The Presidential Candidates on Climate Change)

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(MORE: Study Links Wild Weather to Climate Change)

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(MORE: Climate Change Could Kill Millions, Report Says)

Headline: Experts call on Congress to create first US Weather Commission

Date: 9/29/2012 11:38:44 PM

Media Contact:

Media Outlet: Webnewswire.com/

Attachment Link: <http://www.webnewswire.com/node/1191936>

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On the Web:

For news releases, images, and more
www.ucar.edu/atmosnews

Headline: Federal Drive interviews - Oct. 3, 2012 - Dr. Tom Bogdan
Date: 10/2/2012 4:15:15 PM
Media Contact:
Media Outlet: WFED-AM (Federal News Radio)
Attachment Link: <http://www.federalnewsradio.com/85/3063776/Federal-Drive-interviews---Oct-3-2012>

Almost like clockwork, each summer and winter brings destructive weather. And each year, the federal government's weather apparatus works hard to keep up with technology and the latest scientific developments. Now one group is urging a new approach – a public-private U.S. Commission on Weather Policy.

Headline: Experts Call on Congress for First U.S. Weather Commission
Date: 10/3/2012 12:16:51 PM
Media Contact: Daniel L. Schiller
Media Outlet: Wisconsin Ag Connection
Attachment Link: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-national.php?Id=2229&yr=2012>

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"The nation must focus its weather resources on the areas of greatest need in order to keep our economy competitive and provide maximum protection of lives and property," says Thomas Bogdan, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. "Emerging technologies are providing an opportunity to create forecasts that are more accurate and detailed than ever, and to communicate them instantly to key communities and businesses. We need a U.S. Weather Commission to ensure that our entire weather research and technology enterprise provides maximum benefit to the nation."

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Earlier this year, the National Academy of Sciences released a hallmark report, *Weather Services for the Nation: Becoming Second to None*. The report concluded that, even with recent concerted and much-needed efforts to modernize the National Weather Service, the country faces challenges in harnessing the best science and private sector resources available for protecting the nation from weather impacts.

These challenges are rooted in evolving scientific and technological advances, rapidly changing needs of the nation's weather information consumers, and an increasingly capable and growing third-party community of weather services providers.

Congress has twice created an ocean commission for setting direction on commerce, research, and defense related to the world's oceans. But there has never been a U.S. Weather Commission, even though weather has far-reaching effects on all Americans.

Commissioners would provide guidance on issues such as making appropriate investments in satellite and radar systems, protecting vulnerable communities, setting research priorities, and meeting the needs of key sectors, ranging from agriculture to utilities to the U.S. armed forces.

"Weather is immeasurably important to public safety and our economic competitiveness," says Pam Emch, a senior staff engineer/scientist with Northrop Grumman Corporation and one of the panelists. "Effective organization of the diverse entities that span our weather enterprise is necessary for economic stability, innovation, and the good of the nation."

"Improved weather information can be an engine for economic growth," says panelist William Gail, co-founder and chief technology officer of the Global Weather Corporation. "As we develop increasingly detailed understanding of our atmosphere, there is enormous potential for helping the public and businesses."

"We must keep pace with accelerating scientific and technological advances and meet expanding user needs in our increasingly information-centric society," says panelist John Armstrong, chair of the

Committee on the Assessment of the National Weather Service's Modernization Program.

Bogdan says that a commission approach, guided by key actors across the entire weather enterprise, will provide needed direction and consensus.

"The U.S. Weather Commission offers the promise of better research, state-of-the-art prediction, and protection for the health and prosperity of the U.S.," he says. "It will also foster growth for the innovative private weather sector we have all come to rely upon. This is an issue that affects all members of Congress and all their constituents, no matter where they live."

Today's panel briefing was the first step in a process that will continue into the next Congress. The panel's next steps are to brief staff and members on the importance of the commission and the role it will play, seeking their guidance and support for establishing the commission in 2013.

Headline: Creation of US Weather Commission Urged
Date: 9/27/2012 11:17:03 PM
Media Contact:
Media Outlet: WLS-TV - Online (press release)
Attachment Link: http://finance.abc7chicago.com/abclocal.wls/news/read/22366008/creation_of_us_weather_commission_urged

With the U.S. economy vulnerable to weather events costing billions of dollars, Congress should create a U.S. Weather Commission, an expert panel said.

The task of the commission would be to provide guidance to policymakers on leveraging weather expertise across government and the private sector to better protect lives and businesses, the National Center for Atmospheric Research reported Thursday.

The Committee on the Assessment of the National Weather Service's Modernization Program noted Congress has previously created ocean commissions for setting direction on commerce, research, and defense related to the world's oceans but there has never been a U.S. Weather Commission.

"The nation must focus its weather resources on the areas of greatest need in order to keep our economy competitive and provide maximum protection of lives and property," Thomas Bogdan, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, said.

"Emerging technologies are providing an opportunity to create forecasts that are more accurate and detailed than ever, and to communicate them instantly to key communities and businesses.

Such a commission would ensure cost-effective spending on the nation's weather systems while minimizing the impacts of both major storms, which last year alone cost about \$52 billion, and normal fluctuations in weather, which have an estimated annual economic impact of \$485 billion, the panel said.

"We need a U.S. Weather Commission to ensure that our entire weather research and technology enterprise provides maximum benefit to the nation," Bogdan said.

Source: Copyright United Press International 2012

Headline: is calling for a weather commission the nonprofit University

Date: 10/3/2012 7:42:52 AM

Media Contact:

Media Outlet: WTOP-FM

Federal news radio fifteen hundred - a coalition of scientists and researchers is calling for a weather commission. The nonprofit University Corporation for Atmospheric Research says the commission would recommend ways to bring industry expertise and money into the weather enterprise because the earlier in more detailed forecast for smaller areas even down to the block size is one Congress passed a law establishing that weather commission Mike Bruce Python.

Headline: Filtered on National Science Foundation - Silobreaker
Date: 10/2/2012 3:07:28 PM
Media Contact:
Media Outlet: www.silobreaker.com
Attachment Link: http://news.silobreaker.com/experts-call-on-congress-to-create-first-us-weather-commission-5_2266021520922902579

With the U.S. economy vulnerable to weather events costing billions of dollars, an expert panel today asked Congress to create the first U.S. Weather Commission. The commission would provide guidance to policymakers on leveraging weather expertise across government and the private sector to better protect lives and businesses.

UCAR president Thomas Bogdan discussed the call for creation of a U.S. Weather Commission during an interview with the Weather Channel on September 27.

“The nation must focus its weather resources on the areas of greatest need in order to keep our economy competitive and provide maximum protection of lives and property,” says Thomas Bogdan, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. “Emerging technologies are providing an opportunity to create forecasts that are more accurate and detailed than ever, and to communicate them instantly to key communities and businesses. We need a U.S. Weather Commission to ensure that our entire weather research and technology enterprise provides maximum benefit to the nation.”

At a time of fast-changing technological innovation, the commission would advise federal policymakers on setting priorities for improving forecasts and creating a more weather-proof nation. The goal is to help ensure cost-effective spending on the nation’s weather systems while minimizing the impacts of both major storms, which last year alone cost about \$52 billion, and normal fluctuations in weather, which have an estimated annual economic impact of \$485 billion.

Earlier this year, the National Academy of Sciences released a hallmark report, *Weather Services for the Nation: Becoming Second to None*. The report concluded that, even with recent concerted and much-needed efforts to modernize the National Weather Service, the country faces challenges in harnessing the best science and private sector resources available for protecting the nation from weather impacts.

These challenges are rooted in evolving scientific and technological advances, rapidly changing needs of the nation’s weather information consumers, and an increasingly capable and growing third-party community of weather services providers.

Congress has twice created an ocean commission for setting direction on commerce, research, and defense related to the world’s oceans. But there has never been a U.S. Weather Commission, even though weather has far-reaching effects on all Americans.

Commissioners would provide guidance on issues such as making appropriate investments in satellite and radar systems, protecting vulnerable communities, setting research priorities, and meeting the needs of key sectors, ranging from agriculture to utilities to the U.S. armed forces.

A swarm of more than 350 tornadoes in late April 2011 killed more than 300 people and caused an estimated \$11 billion in damage. It was the nation’s largest and costliest tornado outbreak on record.

FEMA image by Marilee Caliendo

“Weather is immeasurably important to public safety and our economic competitiveness,” says Pam Emch, a senior staff engineer/scientist with Northrop Grumman Corporation and one of the panelists.

“Effective organization of the diverse entities that span our weather enterprise is necessary for economic stability, innovation, and the good of the nation.”

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