



THE WEATHER COALITION

August 19, 2014

The Honorable Tom Cole
US House of Representatives
2458 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3604

Dear Congressman Cole:

On behalf of the Weather Coalition, we are writing to express our support for the bill you introduced in July, the “Preparedness and Risk Management for Extreme Weather Patterns Assuring Resilience Act of 2014” (PREPARE Act of 2014).

The Weather Coalition represents a broad spectrum of the commercial, academic, and non-profit organizations involved in weather science, services, and technologies; a membership list can be found at <http://weathercoalition.org/content/members>. The Coalition brings these diverse entities together in an organized effort to undertake, promote, and support programs that will make “second to none” our nation’s portfolio of environmental observations and weather forecasting capabilities, including the underpinning research, development, and transition to operations. We strongly believe our job is not done unless people, businesses, and communities take appropriate action in response to weather warnings and forecasts, so we are encouraged by Congress’ interest in strengthening our preparedness for extreme weather – the first step toward a successful response.

As the bill is deliberated in the coming months, we recommend NOAA’s role in weather be emphasized and their direct participation in national committees be assured. NOAA’s Weather Ready Nation initiative is germane to the goals of this legislation. At the same time, the bill should recognize that successful extreme weather warnings and forecasts are dependent on the collective efforts of the public, private and academic sectors; closer collaboration among those sectors is essential for improved services.

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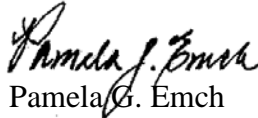
We commend you and your staff for your ongoing efforts to improve our nation's resiliency to extreme weather and we stand ready to work with you and others on the Hill as this bill moves forward.

Best regards,

The Weather Coalition co-chairs,



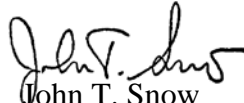
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cc: The Honorable Matthew Cartwright