

March 27, 2013

DECLARATION OF THE WEATHER ENTERPRISE CONSENSUS BUILDING CONFERENCE

We, the individuals and organizations participating in the Weather Enterprise Consensus Building Conference, held in Irving, Texas, on March 6–7, 2013 and those additional members of the weather enterprise who have subsequently signed on to this document:

Affirm the weather enterprise in the United States, a combination of government, academia, and America's weather industry that has developed and provided to the nation the most comprehensive weather services in the world and contributed to America's global economic competitiveness;

Affirm the importance of continuous improvements in the protection of life and property of American citizens, support of national security, and enhancement of the health and competitiveness of the U.S. economy through the provision of weather services;

Affirm the significant risks that the detrimental impacts of weather can have on the U.S. economy and the great potential for significant costs to society;

Affirm that meeting America's weather needs requires robust core capabilities supplied by government, the private sector and the academic sector, including the human and technological infrastructure required for data collection and analysis through satellites, radars and other terrestrial sensors, and state-of-the-art computational resources and forecast models;

Affirm that the economic health and public safety of the nation is dependent on a strong foundation of systems and services that support weather preparedness, assessments, and warnings;

Affirm that the urgent and expanding demand for improved weather services has surpassed current capacities in many areas of the weather enterprise;

Affirm that the weather enterprise has the latent capacity to develop and implement robust new capabilities, and that we are poised to enter a new era of weather services and applications that have the potential to support and strengthen the nation's economy and enhance job creation, especially in the private sector; and,

Having affirmed these realities, we commit, as a matter of urgency, to hastening development of the next-generation capabilities of the U.S. weather enterprise to provide the levels of service required now and into the future. To achieve this, we declare our intent to pursue parallel national actions, leveraging past successes, current capabilities,

Declaration of the Weather Enterprise Consensus Building Conference and core strengths among all members of the weather enterprise to meet immediate and longer-term enterprise needs, including the following steps:

1. Enhance our immediate ability to advocate by strengthening an established advocacy organization called the Weather Coalition and, drawing on existing weather enterprise activities with involvement

from leaders across all enterprise sectors, work toward creation of a national strategy to pursue near-term priorities and advocate for that strategy; and,

2. Pursue a longer-term approach to strengthening the enterprise, which may include a request for a Congressionally-chartered U.S. Weather Commission.

We, the undersigned, affirm our commitment to the above.

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