



30 July 2024

The Honorable Ed Markey

255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Markey;

Friends of NOAA, composed of the undersigned representatives of industry, academia, and the nonprofit sector, write in support of the Forecasting Optimization for Robust Earth Climate Analysis and Subseasonal to Seasonal Tracking (FORECASTS) Act of 2024.

This legislation continues to progress the work done by Congress in the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 by providing funding for essential activities at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which protect the public health, the national economy, and our national security. Accelerating emerging modeling technologies and directly addressing workforce needs are two of many important steps that can be taken to ensure the NOAA of the future is properly equipped to address our evolving climate and increases in severe and extreme weather events that have cost the United States over \$2.755 trillion in the last 40 years.¹

We hope that bipartisan and bi-cameral efforts will continue to address this critical issue and stand ready to serve as a resource.

If Friends of NOAA can be of service or provide additional information, please contact Paul Heppner (co-chair), pheppner@gst.com, or Pamitha Weerasinghe (co-chair), pamitha.weerasinghe@maxar.com.

Sincerely,

Pamitha Weerasinghe
Paul Heppner
Co-Chairs, Friends of NOAA

¹ Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters, National Centers for Environmental Information (July 29, 2024), <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/>

Friends of NOAA Member Signatories

American Geophysical Union

Global Science & Technology, Inc.

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

Integrated Ocean Observing System Association

Integrated Systems Solutions

ISciences L.L.C.

RedLine Performance Solutions, LLC

University Corporation for Atmospheric Research

Wisconsin Maritime Museum

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Woodwell Climate Research Center