

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AND RELATED AGENCIES
AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

MAY 18, 1999.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. SENSENBRENNER, from the Committee on Science,
submitted the following

REPORT

together with

MINORITY VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 1553]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Science, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1553) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 and fiscal year 2001 for the National Weather Service, Atmospheric Research, and National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

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I. AMENDMENT

The amendment is as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Weather Service and Related Agencies Authorization Act of 1999”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act, the term—

- (1) “Administrator” means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and
- (2) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.

(a) OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Operations, Research, and Facilities activities of the National Weather Service \$617,897,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$617,897,000 for fiscal year 2001, to remain available until expended. Of such amounts—

- (1) \$449,441,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$450,411,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Local Warnings and Forecasts;
- (2) \$2,200,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$2,200,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Advanced Hydrological Prediction System;
- (3) \$619,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$619,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Susquehanna River Basin Flood Systems;
- (4) \$35,596,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$35,596,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Aviation Forecasts;
- (5) \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) Facilities Maintenance;
- (6) \$37,081,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$37,081,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Central Forecast Guidance;
- (7) \$3,090,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$3,090,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Atmospheric and Hydrological Research;
- (8) \$39,325,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$39,325,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD);
- (9) \$7,573,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$7,573,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS);
- (10) \$38,002,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$38,002,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS); and
- (11) \$970,000 for fiscal year 2000 shall be for two 1,000-watt National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio transmitters, to be located in Jasper and Marion Counties, Illinois, and nine 300-watt National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio transmitters, to be installed in appropriate locations throughout the State of Illinois, and for maintenance costs related thereto.

(b) PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUCTION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction activities of the National Weather Service \$69,632,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$70,120,000 for fiscal year 2001, to remain available until expended. Of such amounts—

- (1) \$9,560,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$9,060,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD);
- (2) \$4,180,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$6,125,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS);
- (3) \$22,575,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$21,525,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS);

(4) \$11,100,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$12,835,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Computer Facilities Upgrades;

(5) \$8,350,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$8,350,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Radiosonde Replacement;

(6) \$500,000 for fiscal year 2000 shall be for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Operations Center Rehabilitation; and

(7) \$13,367,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$12,225,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Construction.

(c) DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To protect life and property, the Secretary, through the National Weather Service, except as provided in paragraph (2), shall be responsible for—

(A) forecasts and shall serve as the sole official source of weather and flood warnings;

(B) the issuance of storm warnings;

(C) the collection, exchange, and distribution of meteorological, hydrological, climatic, and oceanographic data and information;

(D) the preparation of hydrometeorological guidance and core forecast information; and

(E) the issuance of marine and aviation forecasts and warnings.

(2) COMPETITION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR.—The National Weather Service shall not provide, or assist other entities to provide, a service (other than a service described in paragraph (1)(A) or (B)) if that service is currently provided or can be provided by commercial enterprise, unless—

(A) the Secretary finds that the private sector is unwilling or unable to provide the service; or

(B) the service provides vital weather warnings and forecasts for the protection of lives and property of the general public.

(3) AMENDMENTS.—The Act of October 1, 1890 (26 Stat. 653) is amended—

(A) by striking section 3 (15 U.S.C. 313); and

(B) in section 9 (15 U.S.C. 317), by striking “, and it shall be” and all that follows, and inserting a period.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report detailing all National Weather Service activities which do not conform to the requirements of this subsection and outlining a timetable for their termination.

SEC. 4. ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH.

(a) OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Atmospheric Research Operations, Research, and Facilities environmental research and development activities of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research \$173,250,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$173,250,000 for fiscal year 2001, to remain available until expended.

(2) CLIMATE AND AIR QUALITY RESEARCH.—Of the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), \$126,200,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$126,200,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Climate and Air Quality Research, of which—

(A) \$16,900,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$16,900,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Interannual and Seasonal Climate Research;

(B) \$34,600,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$34,600,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Long-Term Climate and Air Quality Research;

(C) \$69,700,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$69,700,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Climate and Global Change; and

(D) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE).

(3) ATMOSPHERIC PROGRAMS.—Of the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), \$47,050,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$47,050,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Atmospheric Programs, of which—

(A) \$36,600,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$36,600,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Weather Research;

(B) \$4,350,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$4,350,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Wind Profiler; and

(C) \$6,100,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$6,100,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Solar-Terrestrial Services and Research.

(b) **PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUCTION.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Atmospheric Research Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction environmental research and development activities of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research \$10,040,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$14,160,000 for fiscal year 2001, to remain available until expended. Of such amounts—

(1) \$5,700,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory Supercomputer; and

(2) \$4,340,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$6,160,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for the Advanced Composition Explorer (ACE) Follow-On Satellite/**GHOSTORM**.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA AND INFORMATION SERVICE.

(a) **OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Operations, Research, and Facilities environmental research and development and related activities of the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service \$103,092,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$103,092,000 for fiscal year 2001, to remain available until expended.

(2) **SATELLITE OBSERVING SYSTEMS.**—Of the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), \$59,236,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$59,236,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Satellite Observing Systems, of which—

(A) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN);

(B) \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Ocean Remote Sensing; and

(C) \$53,236,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$53,236,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Environmental Observing Services.

(3) **ENVIRONMENTAL DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS.**—Of the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), \$43,856,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$43,856,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Environmental Data Management Systems, of which—

(A) \$31,521,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$31,521,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Data and Information Services; and

(B) \$12,335,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$12,335,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Environmental Data Systems Modernization.

(b) **PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUCTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction environmental research and development and related activities of the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service \$413,657,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$476,183,000 for fiscal year 2001, to remain available until expended.

(2) **SYSTEMS ACQUISITION.**—Of the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), \$410,612,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$473,803,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Systems Acquisition, of which—

(A) \$140,979,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$114,594,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for the procurement and launch of, and supporting ground systems for, Polar Orbiting Environmental Satellites (POES), K, L, M, N, and N’;

(B) \$80,100,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$113,600,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for the procurement and launch of, and supporting ground systems for, the National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS); and

(C) \$189,533,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$245,609,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for the procurement and launch of, and supporting ground systems for, Geostationary Operational Environmental NEXT follow-on Satellites (GOES N–Q).

(3) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Of the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), \$3,045,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$2,380,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Operations Center Rehabilitation Construction.

SEC. 6. FACILITIES.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Operations, Research, and Facilities environmental research and development and related activities required to meet recurring facilities operations costs associated with the David Skaggs Re-

search Center in Boulder, Colorado, \$3,850,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$3,850,000 for fiscal year 2001.

SEC. 7. ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARDS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall exclude from consideration for grant agreements made after fiscal year 1999 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the activities for which funds are authorized under this Act, any person who received funds, other than those described in subsection (b), appropriated for a fiscal year after fiscal year 1999, under a grant agreement from any Federal funding source for a project that was not subjected to a competitive, merit-based award process, except as specifically authorized by this Act. Any exclusion from consideration pursuant to this section shall be effective for a period of 5 years after the person receives such Federal funds.

(b) **EXCEPTION.**—Subsection (a) shall not apply to the receipt of Federal funds by a person due to the membership of that person in a class specified by law for which assistance is awarded to members of the class according to a formula provided by law.

(c) **DEFINITION.**—For purposes of this section, the term “grant agreement” means a legal instrument whose principal purpose is to transfer a thing of value to the recipient to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law of the United States, and does not include the acquisition (by purchase, lease, or barter) of property or services for the direct benefit or use of the United States Government. Such term does not include a cooperative agreement (as such term is used in section 6305 of title 31, United States Code) or a cooperative research and development agreement (as such term is defined in section 12(d)(1) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710a(d)(1))).

SEC. 8. INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.

The Administrator shall make available through the Internet home page of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration the abstracts relating to all research grants and awards made with funds authorized by this Act. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require or permit the release of any information prohibited by law or regulation from being released to the public.

II. PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 1553 is to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 and fiscal year 2001 for the National Weather Service (NWS), Atmospheric Research, and National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS) activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

III. BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE LEGISLATION

NOAA was created on October 3, 1970, by President Nixon’s Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1970 to consolidate many of the Nation’s civil programs related to the oceans and atmosphere. NOAA’s stated mission is “to describe and predict changes in the Earth’s environment, and to conserve and manage the Nation’s coastal and marine resources to ensure sustainable economic opportunities.”

The NOAA programs for which the Committee on Science has sole jurisdiction include NWS, NESDIS, and NOAA’s Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) Climate and Atmospheric programs. In addition, the Committee has jurisdiction over the associated line accounts for the aforementioned programs under the Facilities and Construction accounts.

Since its creation, NOAA has obtained most of its program funding through direct appropriation without annual legislative authorization. In the 98th Congress, legislation authorizing NOAA activities for FY 1984, S. 1097, was vetoed on October 19, 1984. In the 99th Congress, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–272) authorized various NOAA activi-

ties, including nautical and aeronautical chart programs, marine research and monitoring, ocean pollution research, and weather modification research. During the 100th Congress, provisions authorizing FY 1989 appropriations for NOAA's satellite, atmospheric, and weather programs (previously approved by the House of Representatives and the Senate as S. 1667) were included in Title IV of S. 2209, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act for FY 1989, which was signed into law on November 17, 1988 (Public Law 100-685).

During the 102nd Congress, the first comprehensive NOAA authorization bill was approved and signed into law, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-567). With three exceptions, Public Law 102-567 only authorized funding for fiscal years (FYs) 1992 and 1993. These exceptions include portions of the Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD) program and the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites I, J, K, L, and M (GOES I-M), which are authorized to completion. No comprehensive NOAA authorization bills have been signed into law since the 102nd Congress.

In the 104th Congress, a one-year NOAA authorization bill (H.R. 3322), which focused on NOAA's weather, satellite, and atmospheric programs, passed the House but was not acted on in the Senate. And in the 105th Congress, a two-year authorization bill (H.R. 1278) was reported by the Committee on Science and the Committee on Resources, but was not acted on by the House.

IV. SUMMARY OF HEARINGS

The Subcommittee on Energy and Environment of the Committee on Science held a hearing on February 24, 1999 to hear testimony on the Administration's FY 2000 budget request for NOAA. Appearing as witnesses before the Subcommittee were: Dr. D. James Baker, Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, U.S. Department of Commerce, and Administrator, NOAA; Mr. Joel C. Willemsen, Director, Civil Agencies Information Systems, Accounting and Information Management Division, U.S. General Accounting Office, accompanied by Mr. L. Nye Stevens, Director, Federal Management and Workforce Issues, General Government Division, U.S. General Accounting Office; and Dr. Richard A. Anthes, Chair, National Research Council National Weather Service Modernization Committee, and President, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colorado.

Dr. Baker testified that NOAA's FY 2000 request is for \$2.6 billion in total budget authority, which includes \$2.5 billion in discretionary budget authority. This request collectively represents a 12.9% increase over the total budget authority appropriated for FY 1999, and Dr. Baker highlighted the following items relevant to the programs authorized in this bill:

- Funding to maintain NOAA's supercomputing capacity at the National Weather Service (NWS) Central Computing Facility in Suitland, Maryland, and the Forecast Systems Lab (FSL) in Boulder, Colorado, while acquiring a massively parallel, scaleable computer to be located at the OAR's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Lab (GFDL), in Princeton, New Jersey.

- Recurring lease and/or operations costs at a number of NOAA facilities coming on-line in FY 1999 and FY 2000, including the David Skaggs Research Center in Boulder, Colorado.
- Adjustments-to-base for pay related and inflationary cost increases to the NWS, as well as for the FY 2000 pay raise for the remaining Line Offices; and
- Funds to begin replacing outdated climate/weather observing equipment in order to maintain continuity of core data and services and provides funds for continuing technology infusion for systems developed under the Weather Service Modernization.

Mr. Willemssen's testimony discussed, among other things, the status of the NWS systems modernization. GAO findings included the following:

- Although the NWS is nearing completion of its systems modernization effort, two significant challenges face it this year—deploying the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS), the final system of the modernization, and ensuring that all of its mission-critical systems are Year 2000 compliant. NWS has made progress on the development and operational testing of the forecaster workstations and its Year 2000 testing and contingency planning. However, cost, schedule, and technical risks associated with the workstations continue to be concerns. Further, the results of NWS' Years 2000 end-to-end testing and business continuity and contingency plans are expected to be delivered soon.

Dr. Anthes' testimony summarized the work to date of the National Research Council's National Weather Service Modernization Committee (NWSMC), and focused on the ongoing modernization and restructuring of the NWS. The NWSMC was established under a NOAA contract executed with the National Research Council on December 29, 1989 to monitor the technical aspects of the modernization and restructuring of the NWS. To date, the NWSMC has completed 15 reports, three of which were letter reports—representing a total of more than 10,000 hours of volunteered time by 37 professionals from a range of science, engineering, weather and information technologies, and organizational management specialties, who provided oversight and independent advice to NOAA and the NWS during the past nine years.

At this time, the NWSMC finds the following:

- Three of the five major technical components of the modernization—the Weather Surveillance Radar-1998 Doppler (WSR-88D), more commonly referred to as NEXRAD; to Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS); and the Next Generation Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES-NEXT)—are in place, operational, and contributing to improved weather forecasts nationwide.
- The fourth component—AWIPS—has experienced delays caused by a mixture of technical and management problems, and is now being deployed in a configuration that is somewhat less capable than originally specified. However, even with its somewhat reduced capability, it provides a data integration and communications tools to the forecasters that is far superior to the old technology in use at weather offices.
- The fifth component of the modernization, supercomputers at the National Centers for Environmental Prediction, are clearly defi-

cient to meet current and climate modeling needs. A program to buy a class 8 supercomputer is in place, but there needs to be a longterm commitment to upgrade periodically and regularly computers at the National Centers.

Dr. Anthes concluded his testimony by summarizing the latest NWSMC report, "A New Vision for the National Weather Service: Roadmap for the Future."

V. COMMITTEE ACTIONS

As summarized above, the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment of the Committee on Science heard testimony relevant to the programs authorized in H.R. 1553 at a hearing held on February 24, 1999.

On April 26, 1999, Mr. Ken Calvert, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, introduced H.R. 1553, the National Weather Service and Related Programs Authorization Act of 1999, a bill to authorize appropriations for FY 2000 and FY 2001 for the NWS, Atmospheric Research, and NESDIS activities of NOAA.

The Committee on Science met to consider H.R. 1553 on Thursday, April 29, 1999, and entertained the following amendments and report language.

Amendment 1.—Mr. Calvert, Chairman of the Science Committee's Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, offered a manager's amendment making technical and conforming changes, which was adopted by voice vote.

Amendment 2.—Mr. Ewing offered an amendment to provide, within available funds authorized for NWS ORF, \$970,000 for two 1,000 watt NOAA Weather Radio transmitters, to be located in Jasper and Marion Counties, Illinois, and nine 300-watt NOAA Weather Radio transmitters, to be installed in appropriate locations throughout the State of Illinois, and for maintenance costs related thereto. The amendment was adopted by voice vote.

Amendment 3.—Mr. Costello offered an amendment: (1) making the NWS the sole official source of flood warnings and responsible for the issuance of marine and aviation forecasts and warnings; and (2) prohibiting the NWS from providing or assisting other entities to provide a service—other than forecasts and weather and flood warnings or the issuance of storm warnings—unless (A) the Secretary finds that the private sector is unwilling or unable to provide the service, or (B) the service provides vital weather warnings and forecasts for the protection of lives and property of the general public. The amendment was adopted by voice vote.

Amendment 4.—Mr. Costello offered an amendment providing a 3-percent increase above the levels authorized for FY 2000 for all ORF accounts in the bill. The amendment was rejected by a vote of 16 ayes to 18 noes.

Amendment 5.—Mr. Costello offered an amendment providing \$13,500,000 for FY 2000 and \$13,500,000 for FY 2001 for NOAA's High Performance Computing and Communications (HPCC) Program. After a discussion clarifying that it was the Chairman's intention for the Committee to act on separate legislation that will authorize appropriations the HPCC program—including NOAA's portion—as well as the proposed Information Technology for the

21st Century Initiative for those agencies under the Committee's jurisdiction, Mr. Costello withdrew the amendment.

Amendment 6.—Mr. Kuykendall offered an amendment requiring the NOAA Administrator to make available through NOAA's Internet home page abstracts relating to all research grants and awards made with funds authorized by this Act, with the proviso that nothing in the amendment shall be construed to require or permit the release of any information prohibited by law or regulation from being released to the public. The amendment was adopted by voice vote.

Amendment 7.—Mr. Wu offered report language regarding the unique geography of the Astoria/Warrenton Airport at the Port of Astoria, Oregon and the challenges it represents for the NWS. The language was adopted by voice vote.

With a quorum present, Mr. Costello moved that the Committee favorably report the bill, H.R. 1553, as amended, to the House with the recommendation that bill as amended do pass, that the staff be instructed to prepare the legislative report and make necessary technical and conforming changes, and that the Chairman take all necessary steps to bring the bill before the House for consideration. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Mr. Sensenbrenner asked and received unanimous consent that: (1) the bill be reported in the form of a single amendment in the nature of a substitute reflecting amendments adopted; (2) that pursuant to clause 1 of Rule XXII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Chairman may offer such motions as may be necessary in the House to go to conference with the Senate on H.R. 1553 or a similar Senate bill; and (3) Members have two subsequent calendar days in which to submit supplemental, minority or additional views on the measure.

VI. SUMMARY OF MAJOR PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

As shown in Table 1, H.R. 1553 authorizes a total of \$1,391,418,000 for FY 2000 and \$1,458,552,000 for FY 2001 for the NWS, the Atmospheric Research programs of OAR, NESDIS, and related Facilities, including (1) \$687,529,000 for FY 2000 and \$688,017,000 for FY 2001 for the NWS; (2) \$183,290,000 for FY 2000 and \$187,410,000 for FY 2001 for Atmospheric Research within the NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR); (3) \$516,749,000 for FY 2000 and \$579,275,000 for FY 2001 for the NESDIS; and (5) \$3,850,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 for Facilities. A detailed breakdown of the authorizations contained in the bill is contained in Table 2.

Excluded from this authorization legislation is NOAA's High Performance Computing and Communications Program, which will be authorized under separate authorization legislation. Also excluded are any additional authorizations for GOES I-M, which were authorized to completion by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-567).

TABLE 1.—H.R. 1553—NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AND RELATED AGENCIES AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999: SUMMARY
 [In thousands of dollars]

Program/activity	FY 1999 appro- priation	FY 2000 request	FY 2000 rec- ommendation	FY 2000 rec- ommendation compared with (+ or -) FY 1999 appropriation	FY 2001 rec- ommendation compared with (+ or -) FY 2000 appropriation
National Weather Service	658,653	687,529	687,529	+28,876	688,017
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research	168,850	196,790	183,290	+14,440	187,410
National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS) Budget Authority	574,994	593,831	593,831	+18,837	637,890
Less GOES I-M PAC Budget Authorization	-82,376	-77,082	-77,082	+5,294	-58,615
NESDIS Budget Authorization	492,618	516,749	516,749	+24,131	579,275
Facilities	3,000	3,850	3,850	+850	3,850
Construction	7,220	0	0	-7,220	0
Total, H.R. 1553 Budget Authority	1,412,717	1,482,000	1,468,500	+55,783	1,517,167
Total, H.R. 1553 Budget Authorization	1,330,341	1,404,918	1,391,418	+61,077	1,458,552

TABLE 2.—H.R. 1553—NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AND RELATED AGENCIES AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999
 [In thousands of dollars]

Program/activity/appropriation account	FY 1999 appro- priation	FY 2000 request	FY 2000 rec- ommendation	FY 2000 rec- ommendation compared with (+ or -) FY 1999 appropriation	FY 2001 rec- ommendation compared with (+ or -) FY 2000 appropriation
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (NWS)					
Operations, Research and Facilities (ORF) Appropriation					
Operations and Research:					
Local Warnings and Forecasts	357,034	450,411	449,441	+92,407	450,411
MARDI	64,036	0	0	-64,036	0
Radioisotope Replacement	2,000	0	0	-2,000	0
Advanced Hydrological Prediction System	0	2,200	2,200	+2,200	2,200
Susquehanna River Basin Flood Systems	1,250	619	619	-631	619
Aviation Forecasts	35,596	35,596	35,596	0	35,596

WFO Maintenance	0	4,000	4,000	+4,000	4,000	0
Subtotal	459,916	492,826	491,856	+31,940	492,826	+970
Central Forecast Guidance	35,574	37,081	37,081	+1,507	37,081	0
Atmospheric and Hydrological Research	2,964	3,090	3,090	+126	3,090	0
Total, Operations and Research ORF Budget Authority	498,454	532,997	532,027	+33,573	532,997	+970
Systems Acquisition:						
Public Warning and Forecast Systems:						
Next Generation Weather Radars (NEXRAD)	38,346	39,325	39,325	+979	39,325	0
Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS)	7,116	7,573	7,573	+457	7,573	0
Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS)/NOAAPort	12,189	38,002	38,002	+25,813	38,002	0
NOAA Weather Radio Transmitters	0	0	970	+970	0	-970
Computer Facility Upgrades	4,600	0	0	-4,600	0	0
Total, Systems Acquisition ORF Budget Authority	62,251	84,900	85,870	+23,619	84,900	-970
Total, NWS ORF Budget Authority	560,705	617,897	617,897	+57,192	617,897	0
Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (PAC) Appropriation						
Systems Acquisition:						
NEXRAD	7,000	9,560	9,560	+2,560	9,060	-500
ASOS	3,855	4,180	4,180	+325	6,125	+1,945
AWIPS	67,667	22,575	22,575	-45,092	21,525	-1,050
Computer Facility Upgrades	9,900	11,100	11,100	+1,200	12,835	+1,735
Radiosonde Replacement	0	8,350	8,350	+8,350	8,350	0
Subtotal, Systems Acquisition PAC Budget Authority	88,422	55,765	55,765	-32,657	57,895	+2,130
Construction:						
NOAA Operations Center (NORC) Rehabilitation	0	500	500	+500	0	-500
NWS WFO Construction	9,526	13,367	13,367	+3,841	12,225	-1,142
Total, Construction PAC Budget Authority	9,526	13,867	13,867	+4,341	12,225	-1,642
Total, NWS PAC Budget Authority	97,948	69,632	69,632	-28,316	70,120	+448

TABLE 2.—H.R. 1553—NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AND RELATED AGENCIES AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

Program/activity/appropriation account	FY 1999 appro- priation	FY 2000 request	FY 2000 rec- ommendation	FY 2000 rec- ommendation compared to or —) FY 1999 appropriation	FY 2001 rec- ommendation compared to or —) FY 2000 appropriation
Total, NWS Budget Authority/Authorization	658,653	687,529	687,529	+28,876	688,017
OFFICE OF OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH (OAR)					
Operations, Research and Facilities (ORF) Appropriation					
Climate and Air Quality Research:					
Interannual and Seasonal Climate Research	14,900	16,900	16,900	+2,000	16,900
Subtotal	14,900	16,900	16,900	+2,000	16,900
Long-Term Climate & Air Quality Research	30,000	34,600	34,600	+4,600	34,600
High Performance Computing and Communications	12,000	13,500	0	-12,000	0
Subtotal	42,000	48,100	34,600	-7,400	34,600
Climate and Global Change	63,000	69,700	69,700	+6,700	69,700
GLOBE	2,500	5,000	5,000	+2,500	5,000
Subtotal	65,500	74,700	74,700	+6,700	74,700
Total, Climate and Air Quality Research	122,400	139,700	126,200	+1,300	126,200
Atmospheric Programs:					
Weather Research	36,100	36,600	36,600	+500	36,600
Wind Profiler	4,350	4,350	4,350	0	4,350
Subtotal	40,450	40,950	40,950	+500	40,950

Solar-Terrestrial Services and Research	6,000	6,100	6,100	6,100	+100	6,100	0
Total, Atmospheric Programs	46,450	47,050	47,050	47,050	+600	47,050	0
Total, OAR ORF Budget Authority	168,850	186,750	173,250	173,250	+1,900	173,250	0
Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (PAC) Appropriation							
Systems Acquisition:							
Geophysical Fluid Dyn. Lab (GFDL) Supercomputer	0	5,700	5,700	8,000	+5,700	8,000	+2,300
Advance Composition Explorer (ACE) Satellite Follow-on/GEOSTORMS	0	4,340	4,340	6,160	+4,340	6,160	+1,820
Total, OAR PAC Budget Authority	0	10,040	10,040	14,160	+10,040	14,160	+4,120
Total, OAR Budget Authority/Authorization	168,850	196,790	183,290	187,410	+14,440	187,410	+4,120
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA AND INFORMATION SERVICE (NESDIS)							
Operations, Research and Facilities (ORF) Appropriation							
Satellite Observing Systems:							
Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN)	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	+2,000	2,000	0
Ocean Remote Sensing	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	0	4,000	0
Environmental Observing Services	53,300	53,236	53,236	53,236	-64	53,236	0
Total, Satellite Observing Systems ORF Budget Authority	57,300	59,236	59,236	59,236	+1,936	59,236	0
Environmental Data Management Systems (EDMS):							
Data and Informative Services	33,550	31,521	31,521	31,521	-2,029	31,521	0
Environmental Data Systems Modernization	16,335	12,335	12,335	12,335	-4,000	12,335	0
Regional Climate Centers	2,750	0	0	0	-2,750	0	0
Total, EDMS ORF Budget Authority	52,635	43,856	43,856	43,856	-8,779	43,856	0
Total, NESDIS ORF Budget Authority	109,935	103,092	103,092	103,092	-6,843	103,092	0
Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (PAC) Appropriation							
Systems Acquisition:							
Polar Spacecraft and Launching:							
Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellites (POES) K-N	149,917	140,979	140,979	114,594	-8,938	114,594	-26,385

TABLE 2.—H.R. 1553—NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AND RELATED AGENCIES AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Program/activity/appropriation account	FY 1999 appro- piation	FY 2000 request	FY 2000 rec- ommendation	FY 2000 rec- ommendation compared to or —) FY 1999 appropriation	FY 2001 rec- ommendation compared to or —) FY 2000 appropriation
National Polar-Orbiting Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS)	50,000	80,100	80,100	+30,100	113,000
Total, Polar Spacecraft and Launching	199,917	221,079	221,079	+21,162	228,194
Geostationary Spacecraft and Launching:					
Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites:					
GOES I-M	82,376	77,082	77,082	-5,294	58,615
GOES N-Q	182,766	189,533	189,533	+6,767	245,609
Total, Geostationary Spacecraft and Launching	265,142	266,615	266,615	+1,473	304,224
Total, Systems Acquisition PAC Budget Authority	465,059	487,694	487,694	+22,635	532,418
Less GOES I-M PAC Budget Authorization	-82,376	-77,082	-77,082	+5,194	-58,615
Total, Systems Acquisition PAC Budget Authorization	382,683	410,612	410,612	+27,929	473,803
Construction:					
NOAA Operations Center (NORC) Rehabilitation	0	3,045	3,045	+3,045	2,380
Total, Construction PAC Budget Authority	0	3,045	3,045	+3,045	2,380
Total, NESDIS PAC Budget Authority	465,059	490,739	490,739	+25,680	534,798
Total, NESDIS PAC Budget Authorization	382,683	413,657	413,657	+30,974	476,183
Total, NESDIS Budget Authority	574,994	593,831	593,831	+18,837	637,890
Total, NESDIS Budget Authorization	492,618	516,749	516,749	+24,131	579,275
FACILITIES					
Operations, Research and Facilities (ORF) Appropriation	3,000	0	0	-3,000	0
NWS WFO Facilities Maintenance	0	3,850	3,850	+3,850	3,850
David Skages Research Center (Boulder, CO) Facilities Operations					0

Total, FACILITIES ORF Budget Authority/Authorization	3,000	3,850	3,850	+850	3,850	0
CONSTRUCTION						
Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (PAC) Appropriation						
Boulder Laboratory Above Standard Cost	6,370	0	0	-6,370	0	0
National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP)	850	0	0	-850	0	0
Total, Construction PAC Budget Authority/Authorization	7,220	0	0	-7,220	0	0
Total, ORF Budget Authority/Authorization	842,490	911,589	895,589	+53,099	895,589	0
Total, PAC Budget Authority	570,227	570,411	570,411	+184	619,078	+48,667
Less GOES I-M PAC Budget Authorization	-82,376	-77,082	-77,082	+5,294	-58,615	+18,467
Total, PAC Budget Authorization	487,851	493,329	493,329	+5,478	560,463	+67,134
Total, H.R. 1553 Budget Authority	1,412,717	1,482,000	1,468,500	+55,783	1,517,167	+48,667
Total, H.R. 1553 Budget Authorization	1,330,341	1,404,918	1,391,418	+61,077	1,458,552	+67,134

VII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS AND COMMITTEE VIEWS

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

Section 1 cites the Act as the “National Weather Service and Related Agencies Authorization Act of 1999.”

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

Section 2 defines: (1) the “Administrator” as the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and (2) the “Secretary” as the Secretary of Commerce.

SECTION 3. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Subsection 3(a) authorizes \$617,897,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001, to remain available until expended, to carry out the Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF) activities of the NWS, including—(1) \$449,441,000 for FY 2000 and \$450,411,000 for FY 2001 for Local Warnings and Forecasts; (2) \$2,200,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 for the Advanced Hydrological Prediction System; (3) \$619,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 for Susquehanna River Basin Flood Systems; (4) \$35,596,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 for Aviation Forecasts; (5) \$4,000,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 for Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) Facilities Maintenance; (6) \$37,081,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 for Central Forecast Guidance; (7) \$3,090,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 for Atmospheric and Hydrological Research; (8) \$39,325,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 for NEXRAD; (9) \$7,573,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 for ASOS; (10) \$38,002,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 for Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System; and (11) \$970,000 for two 1,000 watt NOAA Weather Radio transmitters, to be located in Jasper and Marion Counties, Illinois, and nine 300-watt NOAA Weather Radio transmitters, to be installed in appropriate locations throughout the State of Illinois, and for maintenance costs related thereto.

Subsection (3)(b) authorizes \$69,632,000 for FY 2000 and \$70,120,000 for FY 2001, to remain available until expended, to carry out the Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction (PAC) activities of the NWS, including—(1) \$9,560,000 for FY 2000 and \$9,060,000 for FY 2001 for NEXRAD; (2) \$4,180,000 for FY 2000 and \$6,125,000 for FY 2001 for ASOS; (3) \$22,575,000 for FY 2000 and \$21,525,000 for FY 2001 for AWIPS; (4) \$11,100,000 for FY 2000 and \$12,835,000 for FY 2001 for Computer Facilities Upgrades; (5) \$8,350,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 for Radiosonde Replacement; (6) \$500,000 for FY 2000 for NOAA Operations Center Rehabilitation; and (7) \$13,367,000 for FY 2000 and \$12,225,000 for FY 2001 for WFO Construction.

Subsection 3(c) provides (1) that the Secretary of Commerce, through the National Weather Service, except as provided in paragraph (2), shall be responsible for—(A) forecasts and shall serve as the sole official source of weather and flood warnings; (B) the issuance of storm warnings; (C) the collection, exchange, and distribution of meteorological, hydrological, and climatic data and information; (D) the preparation of hydrometeorological guidance and

core forecast information; and (E) the issuance of marine and aviation forecasts and warnings.

Subsection 3(c)(2) stipulates that the NWS will not provide, or assist other entities to provide a service—other than forecasts and weather and flood warnings or the issuance of storm warnings—unless (A) the Secretary finds that the private sector is unwilling or unable to provide the service, or (B) the service provides vital weather warnings and forecasts for the protection of lives and property of the general public.

Subsection 3(c)(3) amends the Act of October 1, 1890 (26 Stat. 653) accordingly.

Subsection 3(c)(4) requires the Secretary submit a report to Congress no later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act detailing all NWS activities that do not conform to the requirements of this subsection and outlining a timetable for their termination.

Committee views

Astoria/Warrenton Airport

The Committee notes the unique geography of the Astoria/Warrenton Airport at the Port of Astoria, Oregon and the challenges it represents for the National Weather Service. It is the Committee's hope that the Director of the National Weather Service should work with airport officials to ensure that the newly installed ASOS, in conjunction with pilot and ground observations, allows the NWS to effectively carry out its mission in the region. Moreover, the Director shall ensure that a local representative is trained in making reports for NWS in the event of an ASOS failure. If these additional pilot and ground observations fail to address the special needs of this airport, further solutions should be investigated and implemented.

Committee views

The National Weather Service and the private sector

The Committee supports privatizing specialized weather services provided by NWS and recommends that the Secretary of Commerce develop criteria for determining which services should be privatized. The Committee notes that NWS has a good working relationship with the commercial weather service sector and supports the continuation of their relationship. The Committee recommends that NWS continue its practice of collecting, exchanging, and distributing weather data and information in real time and in a non-discriminatory manner.

The Committee believes that NWS should not directly or indirectly compete with the private sector. The Committee believes that in carrying-out its duties as described in the legislation, NWS should not compete with the private sector by confining its activities to those that protect the lives and property of the general public. Additionally, the weather service should not enter into exclusive agreements, fee-based or otherwise, with any organization, for profit or otherwise, for distribution of weather data if the organization uses the data to generate marketable products.

The Committee also reiterates that NWS is the sole official source of weather and flood warnings. The Committee further

notes, however, that this designation should in no way preclude private weather forecasters from issuing weather forecasts.

SECTION 4. ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

Subsection 4(a)(1) authorizes \$170,250,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001, to remain available until expended, to carry out the ORF environmental research and development activities of OAR.

Subsection 4(a)(2) authorizes \$126,200,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 for Climate and Air Quality Research, of which—(A) \$16,900,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 is for Interannual and Seasonal Climate Research; (B) \$34,600,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 is for Long-Term Climate and Air Quality Research; (C) \$69,700,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 is for Climate and Global Change; and (D) \$5,000,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 is for Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE); and

Subsection 4(a)(3) authorizes \$47,050,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 for Atmospheric Programs, of which—(A) \$36,600,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 is for Weather Research; (B) \$4,350,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 is for Wind Profiler; and (C) \$6,100,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 is for Solar-Terrestrial Services and Research.

Subsection 4(b) authorizes \$10,040,000 for FY 2000 and \$14,160,000 for FY 2001, to remain available until expended, to carry out the PAC environmental research and development activities of OAR, including—(1) \$5,700,000 for FY 2000 and \$8,000,000 for FY 2001 for the GFDL Supercomputer; and (2) \$4,340,000 for FY 2000 and \$6,160,000 for FY 2001 for the Advanced Composition Explorer (ACE) Follow-On/GEOSTORM Satellite.

Committee views

The lack of authorization for NOAA's HPCC program in H.R. 1553 should not be construed as a lack of endorsement of the program. The Committee intends to act on separate legislation that will authorize appropriations for the HPCC program—including NOAA's portion—as well as the proposed Information Technology for the 21st Century Initiative for those agencies under its jurisdiction.

SECTION 5. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA AND INFORMATION SERVICE

Subsection 5(a)(1) authorizes \$103,092,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001, to remain available until expended, to carry out the ORF environmental research and development and related activities of NESDIS.

Subsection 5(a)(2) authorizes \$59,236,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 for Satellite Observing Systems, of which—(A) \$2,000,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 is for the Global Disaster Information Network; (B) \$4,000,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 is for Ocean Remote Sensing; and (C) \$53,236,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 is for Environmental Observing Services.

Subsection 5(a)(3) authorizes \$43,856,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 for Environmental Data Management Systems, of which—(A) \$31,521,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 is for Data

and Information services; and (B) \$12,335,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 is for Environmental Data Systems Modernization.

Subsection 5(b)(1) authorizes \$413,657,000 for FY 2000 and \$476,183,000 for FY 2001, to remain available until expended, to carry out the PAC environmental research and development and related activities of NESDIS.

Subsection 5(b)(2) authorizes \$410,612,000 for FY 2000 and \$473,803,000 for FY 2001 for Systems Acquisition, of which—(A) \$140,979,000 for FY 2000 and \$114,594,000 for FY 2001 is for the procurement and launch of, and supporting ground systems for, Polar Orbiting Environmental Satellites (POES), K, L, M, N, and N'; (B) \$80,100,000 for FY 2000 and \$113,600,000 for FY 2001 use for the procurement and launch of, and supporting ground systems for, the National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS); and (C) \$189,533,000 for FY 2000 and \$245,609,000 for FY 2001 is for the procurement and launch of, and supporting ground systems for, Geostationary Operational Environmental NEXT follow-on Satellites (GOES N–Q).

Subsection 5(b)(3) authorizes \$3,045,000 for FY 2000 and \$2,380,000 for FY 2001 is for WFO Construction.

Committee views

As was noted above, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992 (Public Law, 102–567) authorized to completion the procurement of GOES I–M. Consequently, H.R. 1553 does include specific authorizations for GOES I–M. The Committee does, however, support the Administration's FY 2000 request of \$77,082,000, as well as the FY 2001 estimate of \$58,615,000 for GOES I–M.

SECTION 6. FACILITIES

Section 6 provides a two-year authorization of \$3,850,000 for each of FYs 2000 and 2001 to enable NOAA to carry out the ORF environmental research and development and related activities required to meet recurring facilities operations costs associated with the David Skaggs Research Center in Boulder, Colorado.

SECTION 7. ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARDS

Subsection 7(a) requires the NOAA Administrator to exclude from consideration for grant agreements made after FY 1999 by the NOAA, under the programs for which funds are authorized under this Act, any person who received funds, other than those described in subsection 7(b), appropriated for a fiscal year after FY 1999, under a grant agreement from any Federal funding source for a project that was not subjected to a competitive, merit-based award process, unless specifically authorized by this Act. Any exclusion from consideration pursuant to this section shall be effective for a period of 5 years after the person receives such Federal funds.

Subsection 7(b) provides that subsection 7(a) shall not apply to the receipt of Federal funds by a person due to the membership of that person in a class specified by law for which assistance is awarded to members of the class according to a formula provided by law.

Subsection 7(c) defines the term “grant agreement” to mean a legal instrument whose principal purpose is to transfer a thing of value to the recipient to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law of the United States, and does not include the acquisition (by purchase, lease, or barter) of property or services for the direct benefit or use of the United States Government. Such term also does not include a cooperative agreement (as such term is used in section 6305 of title 31, United States Code) or a cooperative research and development agreement (as such term is defined in section 12(d)(1) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710a(d)(1))).

Committee views

The Committee has a long-standing position that awards should be based on a competitive merit-based process. Merit review allows taxpayers’ dollars to be spent in the most cost-effective manner.

SECTION 8. INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

Section 8 requires the NOAA Administrator to make available through NOAA’s Internet home page of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration the abstracts relating to all research grants and awards made with funds authorized by this Act. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require or permit the release of any information prohibited by law or regulation from being released to the public.

Committee views

The Committee believes that by giving public access to information about how tax dollars are spent, it is acting as a responsible steward of taxpayer resources. Such information can also stimulate additional public and private sector research by informing the research community.

VIII. COST ESTIMATE

Rule XIII, clause 3(d)(2) of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires that each report of a committee on a public bill or public joint resolution contain: (A) an estimate by the committee of the costs that would be incurred in carrying out the bill or joint resolution in the fiscal year in which it is reported, and in each of the five fiscal years following that fiscal year (or for the authorized duration of any program authorized by such bill or joint resolution, if less than five years); (B) a comparison of the estimate of costs described in subdivision (A) made by the committee with any estimate of such costs made by a Government agency and submitted to such committee; and (C) when practicable, a comparison of the total estimated funding level for the relevant programs with the appropriate levels under current law. However, House Rule XIII, clause 3(d)(3)(B) provides that this requirement does not apply when a cost estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 has been included in the report pursuant to House Rule XIII, clause 3(c)(3). A cost estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under

section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 has been timely submitted to the Committee on Science prior to the filing of this report and is included in Section IX of this report pursuant to House Rule XIII, clause 3(c)(3).

Rule XIII, clause 3(c)(2) of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires that the report of a committee on a measure that has been approved by the committee providing new budget authority (other than continuing appropriations), new spending authority, or new credit authority, or changes in revenues or tax expenditures include the statement required by section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, except that an estimate of new budget authority shall include, when practicable, a comparison of the total estimated funding level for the relevant programs to the appropriate levels under current law. H.R. 1553 does not contain any new budget authority, new spending authority, or new credit authority, or changes in revenues or tax expenditures. Assuming that the sums authorized under the bill are appropriated, H.R. 1553 does authorize additional discretionary spending, as described in the Congressional Budget Office report on the bill, which is contained in Section IX of this report.

IX. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

Rule XIII, clause 3(c)(3) of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires that the report of a committee on a measure that has been approved by the committee include an estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 if timely submitted to the committee before the filing of the report. The Committee on Science has received the following cost estimate for H.R. 1553 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, May 7, 1999.

Hon. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, Jr.,
*Chairman, Committee on Science,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 1553, the National Weather Service and Related Agencies Authorization Act of 1999.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Gary Brown.

Sincerely,

BARRY B. ANDERSON
(For Dan L. Crippen, Director).

Enclosure.

H.R. 1553—National Weather Service and Related Agencies Authorization Act of 1999

Summary: H.R. 1553 would authorize the appropriation of \$1,391 million in fiscal year 2000 and \$1,459 million in 2001 for weather and atmospheric research programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Specifically, the bill would

authorize funding for NOAA programs carried out by the National Weather Service, the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, and the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1553 would result in additional outlays of \$2,828 million over the 2000–2004 period, assuming the appropriation of the authorized amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 1553 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Estimated cost to the Federal Government: The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1553 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

For the purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 1553 will be enacted by the end of fiscal year 1999 and that all amounts authorized by the bill will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending rates for these programs.

	By fiscal years, in millions of dollars—					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law:						
Budget Authority ¹	1,413	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	1,313	630	257	103	23	0
Proposed Changes:						
Authorization Level	0	1,391	1,459	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	747	1,159	564	249	107
Spending Under H.R. 1553:						
Authorization Level ¹	1,413	1,391	1,459	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	1,313	1,378	1,416	667	272	107

¹The 1999 level is the amount appropriated for that year for activities conducted by the National Weather Service, The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, and the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service that would be authorized by H.R. 1553.

Pay-as-you-go considerations: None.

Intergovernmental and private-sector impact: H.R. 1553 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Some of the funds authorized in this bill would be used to provide grants for research at public universities.

Estimate prepared by: Gary Brown.

Estimate approved by: Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

X. COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104–4

H.R. 1553 contains no unfunded mandates.

XI. COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Rule XIII, clause 3(c)(1) of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires that the report of a committee on a measure that has been approved by the committee include oversight findings and recommendations under clause 2(b)(1) of rule X. The Committee on

Science's oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

XII. OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

Rule XIII, clause 3(c)(4) of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires that the report of a committee on a measure that has been approved by the committee include a summary of oversight findings and recommendations made by the Committee on Government Reform under clause 4(c)(2) of rule X if such findings and recommendations have been submitted to the reporting committee in time to allow it to consider such findings and recommendations during its deliberations on the measure. The Committee on Science has received no such findings or recommendations from the Committee on Government Reform.

XIII. CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Rule XIII, clause 3(d)(1) of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires that each report of a committee on a public bill or public joint resolution contain a statement citing the specific powers granted to the Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution. Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact Y.R. 1553.

XIV. FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

H.R. 1553 does not establish or authorize the establishment of any advisory committee.

XV. CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

The Committee finds that H.R. 1553 does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act (Public Law 104–1).

XVI. CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

ACT OF OCTOBER 1, 1890

CHAP. 1226.—An act to increase the efficiency and reduce the expenses of the Signal Corps of the Army, and to transfer the Weather Service to the Department of Agriculture.

* * * * *

[SEC. 3. That the Chief of the Weather Bureau, under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture, on and after July first, eighteen hundred and ninety-one, shall have charge of the forecasting of weather, the issue of storm warnings, the display of weather and

flood signals for the benefit of agriculture, commerce, and navigation, the gauging and reporting of rivers, the maintenance and operation of sea-coast telegraph lines and the collection and transmission of marine intelligence for the benefit of commerce and navigation, the reporting of temperature and rain-fall conditions for the cotton interests, the display of frost and cold-wave signals, the distribution of meteorological information in the interests of agriculture and commerce, and the taking of such meteorological observations as may be necessary to establish and record the climatic conditions of the United States, or as are essential for the proper execution of the foregoing duties.】

* * * * *

SEC. 9. That on and after July first, eighteen hundred and ninety-one, the appropriations for the support of the Signal Corps of the Army shall be made with those of other staff corps of the Army, and the appropriations for the support of the Weather Bureau shall be made with those of the other bureaus of the Department of Agriculture【, and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of Agriculture to prepare future estimates for the Weather Bureau which shall be hereafter specially developed and extended in the interests of agriculture】.

XVII. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

On April 29, 1999, a quorum being present, the Committee favorably reported H.R. 1553, the National Weather Service and Related Agencies Authorization Act of 1999, as amended, by a voice vote, and recommended its enactment.

XVIII. MINORITY VIEWS

The minority is satisfied that the exclusion of the authorization of appropriations for NOAA's portion of the High Performance Computing and Communication program is done without prejudice. This funding supports advancements in NOAA's computational ability which will enable NOAA to improve both short and long-range forecasting. The Chairman indicated the Committee will move separate legislation within the coming few weeks to authorize appropriations for the HPCC program in its entirety, including the authorization for NOAA's portion of the program. We understand that the bill will provide authorizations of appropriations for all Departments and Agencies which participate in the government-wide HPCC program, as well as in the proposed Information Technology for the 21st Century initiative.

The Chairman's bill shows flat funding in program accounts from FY 2000 to FY 2001. The minority are concerned that these out-year funding numbers are insufficient to provide for the real needs of the Nation. This flat funding authorization will produce a decline in the real work being done by NOAA as inflation has to be absorbed from those numbers. Reduced funding will impact our Weather Service and studies on environmental atmospheric change. While the nominal dollars from FY 2000 to FY 2001 appear to be the same, the level of services supported will decline in real terms.

Consequently, Mr. Costello offered an amendment to raise the authorization level for FY 2001 by 3%. A 3% increase would increase program authorizations by less than \$27 million. This level of increase is consistent with the Committee's past three Views and Estimates produced by the majority. The majority endorsed a 3% increase in FY 1998 and FY 2000 and a 4% increase in FY 1999. We would add that in February, the majority released an analysis of the President's outyear request numbers for science and technology accounts. That analysis criticized the President for weak outyear numbers for the programs under the Science Committee's jurisdiction. Specifically, the Chairman's press release noted that "in the out years, the Administration's civilian R&D budget fails to keep pace with inflation." Ironically, the numbers used for FY 2000 in H.R. 1552 came from the President's request for FY 2000.

We would add that the Costello amendment was consistent with the findings in Rep. Ehlers' report on Federal Science policy. That report called for stable and substantial funding for science programs. It is hard to see how funding can be stable and substantial if we routinely let inflation eat away at our programs.

The goal of this amendment was to send a signal to the Administration, as it develops its FY 2001 budget request for NOAA, that the Committee values these programs. Further, we wanted to offer some flexibility to the appropriators in FY 2001 in case the budget

situation continues to improve and there is fiscal room to enhance our funding for NOAA's work. In any event, these arguments produced a straight party line vote in which the amendment was defeated and NOAA's authorization will fail to keep pace with inflation in FY 2001.

GEORGE E. BROWN, Jr.
 MIKE DOYLE.
 JOHN B. LARSON.
 MARK UDALL.
 ZOE LOFGREN.
 MICHAEL E. CAPUANO.
 NICK LAMPSON.
 LYNN N. RIVERS.
 JERRY F. COSTELLO.
 SHEILA JACKSON LEE.
 DEBBIE STABENOW.
 BART GORDON.
 EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON.
 DAVID WU.
 JIM BARCIA.
 LYNN WOOLSEY.
 ANTHONY D. WEINER.

XIX. PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE MARKUP

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. The final bill on the calendar today is H.R. 1553, The National Weather Service and Related Agencies Authorization Act of 1999, which authorizes a total of \$1.391 billion for Fiscal 2000; \$1.468 billion for Fiscal 2001 for the National Weather Service, the NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research Program, the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service and related agencies.

I would ask unanimous consent that the balance of my statement be included in the record before recognizing the Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Minority Members for opening statements, let me say that it is the intention of the Chair when we reach a roll call, which can be anywhere from 20 to 50 minutes not to come back. And if this bill is not approved and reported out by the time bell rings and we have to adjourn, it will be placed at the top of the agenda at our next markup. So those who really want this bill to be reported, are urged to make their statements brief and quick and to the point.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California, Mr. Calvert, for a brief 5 minutes.

[The statement of Mr. Sensenbrenner follows:]

STATEMENT OF HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

H.R. 1553, the National Weather Service and Related Agencies Authorization Act of 1999, authorizes a total of \$1.391 billion for FY 2000 and \$1.468 billion for FY 2001 for the National Weather Service, the NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research programs, the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service and related Facilities.

Similar to H.R. 1552, the programs in H.R. 1553 are authorized at the FY 2000 level requested by NOAA and are consistent with the FY 2001 estimates contained in NOAA FY 2000 budget request except this bill excludes NOAA's High Performance Computing and Communications Program, which will be authorized under sep-

arate authorization legislation. Also excluded are any additional authorizations for the Geostationary Operational Satellites, I, J, K, L, and M (GOES I–M), which were authorized to completion by the NOAA Authorization Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–567).

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I had an opening statement that pretty much explained both bills in that statement. I would just like to move to the amendment process.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. The gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Costello.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, I will follow Chairman Calvert's lead and let me just say that I am pleased that we are bringing this bill before the Committee today. I have the same concern with this legislation as far as the authorization level as I did with the last bill. I will be offering my amendment at the appropriate time.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Without objection, the two opening statements just referred to will be inserted into the record at this point. Also, without objection, other Members may insert opening statements into the record at this point. Further without objection, the bill is read a first time, open for amendment at any point and the Chair recognizes Mr. Calvert of California who has the first amendment which is a technical and conforming amendment.

[The information follows:]

H.R. 1553

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Weather Service and Related Agencies Authorization Act of 1999”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act, the term—

- (1) “Administrator” means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and
- (2) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.

(a) OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Operations, Research, and Facilities activities of the National Weather Service \$617,897,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$617,897,000 for fiscal year 2001, to remain available until expended. Of such amounts—

- (1) \$450,411,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$450,411,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Local Warnings and Forecasts;
- (2) \$2,200,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$2,200,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Advanced Hydrological Prediction System;
- (3) \$619,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$619,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Susquehanna River Basin Flood Systems;
- (4) \$35,596,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$35,596,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Aviation Forecasts;
- (5) \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) Facilities Maintenance;
- (6) \$37,081,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$37,081,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Central Forecast Guidance;
- (7) \$3,090,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$3,090,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Atmospheric and Hydrological Research;
- (8) \$39,325,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$39,325,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD);
- (9) \$7,573,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$7,573,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS); and
- (10) \$38,002,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$38,002,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS).

(b) **PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUCTION.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction activities of the National Weather Service \$69,632,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$70,120,000 for fiscal year 2001, to remain available until expended. Of such amounts—

(1) \$9,560,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$9,060,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD);

(2) \$4,180,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$6,125,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS);

(3) \$22,575,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$21,525,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS);

(4) \$11,100,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$12,835,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Computer Facilities Upgrades;

(5) \$8,350,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$8,350,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Radiosonde Replacement;

(6) \$500,000 for fiscal year 2000 shall be for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Operations Center Rehabilitation; and

(7) \$13,367,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$12,225,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Construction.

(c) **DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To protect life and property, the Secretary, through the National Weather Service, except as provided in paragraph (2), shall be responsible for—

(A) forecasts and shall serve as the sole official source of weather warnings;

(B) the issuance of storm warnings;

(C) the collection, exchange, and distribution of meteorological, hydrological, climatic, and oceanographic data and information; and

(D) the preparation of hydrometeorological guidance and core forecast information.

(2) **COMPETITION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR.**—The National Weather Service shall not provide, or assist other entities to provide, a service (other than a service described in paragraph (1)(A)) if that service is currently provided or can be provided by commercial enterprise, unless—

(A) the Secretary finds that the private sector is unwilling or unable to provide the service; or

(B) the service provides vital weather warnings and forecasts for the protection of lives and property of the general public.

(3) **AMENDMENTS.**—The Act of October 1, 1890 (26 Stat. 653) is amended—

(A) by striking section 3 (15 U.S.C. 313); and

(B) in section 9 (15 U.S.C. 317), by striking “, and it shall be” and all that follows, and inserting a period.

(4) **REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report detailing all National Weather Service activities which do not conform to the requirements of this subsection and outlining a timetable for their termination.

SEC. 4. ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH.

(a) **OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Atmospheric Research Operations, Research, and Facilities environmental research and development activities of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research \$173,250,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$173,250,000 for fiscal year 2001, to remain available until expended.

(2) **CLIMATE AND AIR QUALITY RESEARCH.**—Of the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), \$126,200,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$126,200,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Climate and Air Quality Research, of which—

(A) \$16,900,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$16,900,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Interannual and Seasonal Climate Research;

(B) \$34,600,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$34,600,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Long-Term Climate and Air Quality Research;

(C) \$69,700,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$69,700,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Climate and Global Change; and

(D) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE).

(3) ATMOSPHERIC PROGRAMS.—Of the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), \$47,050,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$47,050,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Atmospheric Programs, of which—

(A) \$36,600,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$36,600,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Weather Research;

(B) \$4,350,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$4,350,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Wind Profiler; and

(C) \$6,100,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$6,100,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Solar-Terrestrial Services and Research.

(b) PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUCTION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Atmospheric Research Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction environmental research and development activities of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research \$10,040,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$14,160,000 for fiscal year 2001, to remain available until expended. Of such amounts—

(1) \$5,700,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory Supercomputer; and

(2) \$4,340,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$6,160,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for the Advanced Composition Explorer (ACE) Follow-On Satellite/GEOSTORM.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA AND INFORMATION SERVICE.

(a) OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Operations, Research, and Facilities environmental research and development and related activities of the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service \$103,092,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$103,092,000 for fiscal year 2001, to remain available until expended.

(2) SATELLITE OBSERVING SYSTEMS.—Of the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), \$59,236,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$59,236,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Satellite Observing Systems, of which—

(A) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN);

(B) \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Ocean Remote Sensing; and

(C) \$53,236,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$53,236,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Environmental Observing Systems.

(3) ENVIRONMENTAL DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS.—Of the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), \$43,856,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$43,856,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Environmental Data Management Systems, of which—

(A) \$31,521,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$31,521,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Data and Information Services; and

(B) \$12,335,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$12,335,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Environmental Data Systems Modernization.

(b) PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction environmental research and development and related activities of the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service \$413,657,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$476,183,000 for fiscal year 2001, to remain available until expended.

(2) SYSTEMS ACQUISITION.—Of the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), \$410,612,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$473,803,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for Systems Acquisition, of which—

(A) \$140,979,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$114,594,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for the procurement and launch of, and supporting ground systems for, Polar Orbiting Environmental Satellites (POES), K, L, M, N, and N’;

(B) \$80,100,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$113,600,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for the procurement and launch of, and supporting ground systems for, the National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS); and

(C) \$189,533,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$245,609,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for the procurement and launch of, and supporting ground

systems for, up to three Geostationary Operational Environmental NEXT follow-on Satellites (GOES N-Q).

(3) CONSTRUCTION.—Of the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), \$3,045,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$2,380,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Operations Center Rehabilitation Construction.

SEC. 6. FACILITIES.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Operations, Research, and Facilities environmental research and development and related activities required to meet recurring facilities operations costs associated with the David Skaggs Research Center in Boulder, Colorado, \$3,850,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$3,850,000 for fiscal year 2001.

SEC. 7. ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall exclude from consideration for grant agreements made after fiscal year 1999 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the programs for which funds are authorized under this Act, any person who received funds, other than those described in subsection (b), appropriated for a fiscal year after fiscal year 1999, under a grant agreement from any Federal funding source for a project that was not subjected to a competitive, merit-based award process. Any exclusion from consideration pursuant to this section shall be effective for a period of 5 years after the person receives such Federal funds.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to the receipt of Federal funds by a person due to the membership of that person in a class specified by law for which assistance is awarded to members of the class according to a formula provided by law.

(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term “grant agreement” means a legal instrument whose principal purpose is to transfer a thing of value to the recipient to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law of the United States, and does not include the acquisition (by purchase, lease, or barter) of property or services for the direct benefit or use of the United States Government. Such term does not include a cooperative agreement (as such term is used in section 6305 of title 31, United States Code) or a cooperative research and development agreement (as such term is defined in section 12(d)(1) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710a(d)(1))).

STATEMENT OF HON. JERRY COSTELLO

Mr. Chairman, my district in Southern Illinois lies along the Mississippi River and we are subject to flooding and a host of ill-tempered storms, especially in the summer months. Consequently, I am a big fan of the National Weather Service and happy to take up a bill that authorizes NWS as well as all the other important atmospheric research work at NOAA.

As with H.R. 1552, this bill reflects the President’s request for FY2000 and I am pleased by the numbers for next year. I am concerned that the FY 2001 numbers would lead to a decline in real support for the work of the National Weather Service and other NOAA accounts and will offer an amendment to plus the out-year authorization up by a modest 3%. I hope the Chairman can join me on this amendment.

There are a few other issues that my colleagues hope to improve through judicious amendments and would ask for the support of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. In general this is a good bill that we want to make better.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The CLERK. “Amendment to H.R. 1553, offered by Mr. Calvert.”

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Without objection, the amendment is considered as read. And the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

[The information follows:]

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1553 OFFERED BY MR. CALVERT

Page 10, line 11, strike “systems” and insert “Services”.

Page 12, line 4, strike "up to three".

Page 12, line 25, strike "programs" and insert "activities".

Page 13, line 6, insert ", except as specifically authorized by this Act" after "award process".

Mr. CALVERT. And as the Chairman mentioned, this bill—this amendment is only technical and conforming changes and I would urge its adoption.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Further discussion on the Calvert amendment?

Hearing none, all those in favor of agreeing to the amendment will signify by saying aye.

Opposed, no.

The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it. And the amendment is agreed to.

The second amendment on the list is one by the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Ewing. For what purpose does the gentleman seek recognition?

Mr. EWING. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The CLERK. "Amendment to H.R. 1553, offered by Mr. Ewing."

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Without objection, the amendment is considered as read and open for amendment at any point. And the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Ewing, is recognized for 5 minutes.

[The information follows:]

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1553 OFFERED BY MR. EWING

Page 2, line 20, strike "\$450,411,000" and insert "\$449,441,000".

Page 3, line 21, strike "and".

Page 3, line 25, strike the period and insert "; and".

Page 3, after line 25, insert the following new paragraph:

(11) \$970,000 for fiscal year 2000 shall be for two 1,000-watt National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio transmitters, to be located in Jasper and Marion Counties, Illinois, and nine 300-watt National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio transmitters, to be installed in appropriate locations throughout the State of Illinois, and for maintenance costs related thereto.

Page 13, line 6, insert ", except as specifically authorized by this Act" after "award process".

Mr. EWING. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you for considering this amendment which is extremely important to a large section of rural Illinois. The amendment takes \$970,000 authorized for Local Warnings and Forecast Division of the National Weather Service to purchase, install, and cover the initial cost to build NOAA weather radio transmitters for the region of Illinois not already covered by the NOAA Weather Radio Alert System.

The tornadoes which recently tore through Illinois and took the life of one of my constituents in Ashton, Illinois brought home the importance of these Weather Alert Systems. There are 17 counties in Illinois without Weather Alert Systems or are only partially covered. It is especially important that rural areas have a system in place to warn people of oncoming storms and dangerous weather. The map that shows where these will be located also is very important because it is almost a vanguard on the west side of the large metropolitan area of Chicago which is so heavily populated and has

been hit a number of times by tornadoes with great loss of property and lives.

I believe the safety concerns and the fact that the funds are coming from existing NOAA programs makes the amendment easily supportable, and I thank the Chairman for allowing the amendment to be offered.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. The gentleman yields back the balance of his time. The gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Costello.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, I just want to——

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTELLO. I want to associate myself with the remarks made by Mr. Ewing, and I support his amendment.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. The gentleman yields back the balance of time. Further discussion on the Ewing amendment?

Hearing none, all those in favor of agreeing to the amendment will signify by saying aye.

Opposed, no.

The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it. And the amendment is agreed to.

Amendment number three on the roster is by the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Costello. For what purpose do you arise?

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The CLERK. "Amendment to H.R. 1553, offered by Mr. Costello."

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. This is amendment number three, correct?

Mr. COSTELLO. Yes, it is.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Without objection, the amendment is considered as read and the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

[The information follows:]

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1553 OFFERED BY MR. COSTELLO

Page 5, line 14, insert "and flood" after "source of weather".

Page 5, line 18, strike "and" at the end of subparagraph (C).

Page 5, line 20, strike the period and insert "; and".

Page 5, after line 20, insert the following new subparagraph:

(E) the issuance of marine and aviation forecasts and warnings.

Page 5, line 24, insert "or (B)" after "paragraph (1)(A)".

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that the majority is willing to accept this amendment. I can either be brief or use my 5 minutes.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COSTELLO. I will be happy to.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. The majority will accept this amendment with the understanding that we may want to work with interested parties on this section to work out an acceptable compromise before this bill comes to the Floor. So we accept the amendment. We have to modify it a bit after some interested parties come to the table that have not been coming to the table in the past.

Mr. COSTELLO. Reclaiming my time. It is my understanding then that we will attempt to work this out before we go to the Floor.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Yes, that is my understanding as well.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, I yield back my time.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Further discussion on Costello amendment number three?

Hearing none, all those in favor will signify by saying aye.

Opposed, no.

The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it. And amendment number three is adopted.

Amendment number four is also by Mr. Costello. For what purpose do you arise?

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The CLERK. "Amendment to H.R. 1553, offered by Mr. Costello."

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Without objection, the amendment is considered as read and the gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1553 OFFERED BY MR. COSTELLO

Page 14, after line 2, insert the following new section:

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION INCREASE.

Each of the amounts authorized for fiscal year 2001 by this Act, except for the amounts authorized by sections 3(b), 4(b), and 5(b), shall be increased by 3 percent.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, the bill before us today leaves funding for NOAA program accounts flat from Fiscal Year 2000 to Fiscal Year 2001. My amendment would rectify this situation. It would—

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Will the gentleman yield? This appears to be amendment number six on the roster. It is fine if we go ahead with amendment number six.

Mr. COSTELLO. Can we do six now and then we'll go back.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Yes, let's do six now and then we can go back.

So the question is on agreeing to amendment number six and the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois for the balance of his 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTELLO. I assume we will be able to dispense with this amendment quicker than the next. Mr. Chairman, this is a similar amendment that I offered to H.R. 1552. It would provide for a 3 percent increase in the authorization level for Fiscal Year 2001. It is consistent with the action of this Committee in the past, the views and estimates which call for a 3 percent increase for Fiscal Year 1998, a 4 percent increase in Fiscal Year 1999, and a 3 percent increase for 2000. I made my arguments and the arguments concerning this authorization increase is the same. And I do believe, for Mr. Rohrabacher's information, that it is a responsible amendment in standing up for the taxpayers just for the record.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Does the gentleman yield back the balance of his time?

Mr. COSTELLO. I do.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Does the gentleman from California wish his remarks in the previous amendment incorporated by reference into the record at this point?

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, in the fear of being redundant, I would accept that.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Costello follows:]

STATEMENT OF HON. JERRY COSTELLO

Mr. Chairman, the bill before us today leaves funding for NOAA program accounts flat from FY2000 to FY2001. My amendment would rectify this situation by simply reaching back into the bill to increase the authorized levels for FY2001 by 3%. Excluded from this increase would be construction and procurement accounts because in those cases we are working with real projected out-year numbers. The total increase in the bill's authorization level is just under \$27 million.

Flat funding means that all the increased inflationary costs for doing work will be absorbed by the programs—leading to an effective cut in funding.

This Committee has gone on record time and again calling for steady, stable funding for our programs. The Ehlers report called for Federal funding to be "stable and substantial"—it can't be stable and substantial if we let inflation erode the funding

from year to year. The Chairman has chided the administration on several occasions for failing to provide adequate out-year funding in its budget requests leading to net declines in inflation-adjusted funding.

This level of increase is consistent with the Committee's recent past Views and Estimates which called for a 3% increase for FY1998, a 4% increase for FY1999 and a 3% increase for FY2000. Almost all of us supported those calls for increases; I would hope we could agree now to support a similar recommended increase in FY2000.

The administration is now beginning its FY2001 budget process. We can send a signal to the administration that there are those in Congress who value these programs.

Finally, we would be providing needed flexibility to appropriators and the Administration for FY2001. We can't know what may be needed 128 months out or what GPRA performance evaluations may suggest. A small increase such as I am suggesting—totaling just under \$27 million—would allow the flexibility to react to such things.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Okay. Further discussion on Costello amendment number six?

Hearing none, all those in favor will signify by saying aye.

Opposed, no.

The noes appear to have it.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, I have to ask for a roll call.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Okay, the noes have it. A roll call is requested and will be granted.

Those in favor of amendment number six will signify by saying aye.

Those opposed, no. And the clerk will call the roll.

The CLERK. Mr. Sensenbrenner?

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. No.

The CLERK. Mr. Sensenbrenner votes no. Mr. Boehlert.

[No response.]

The CLERK. Mr. Smith of Texas.

[No response.]

The CLERK. Mrs. Morella.

Mrs. MORELLA. No.

The CLERK. Mrs. Morella votes no. Mr. Weldon of Pennsylvania.

[No response.]

The CLERK. Mr. Rohrabacher.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. No.

The CLERK. Mr. Rohrabacher votes no. Mr. Barton.

Mr. BARTON. No.

The CLERK. Mr. Barton votes no. Mr. Calvert.

Mr. CALVERT. No.

The CLERK. Mr. Calvert votes no. Mr. Smith.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. No.

The CLERK. Mr. Smith votes no. Mr. Bartlett.

Mr. BARTLETT. No.

The CLERK. Mr. Bartlett votes no. Mr. Ehlers.

Mr. EHLERS. No.

The CLERK. Mr. Ehlers votes no. Mr. Weldon of Florida.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. No.

The CLERK. Mr. Weldon votes no. Mr. Gutknecht.

[No response.]

The CLERK. Mr. Ewing.

Mr. EWING. No.

The CLERK. Mr. Ewing votes no. Mr. Cannon.

[No response.]

The CLERK. Mr. Brady.
 Mr. BRADY. No.
 The CLERK. Mr. Brady votes no. Mr. Cook.
 Mr. COOK. No.
 The CLERK. Mr. Cook votes no. Mr. Nethercutt.
 Mr. NETHERCUTT. No.
 The CLERK. Mr. Nethercutt votes no. Mr. Lucas.
 Mr. LUCAS. No.
 The CLERK. Mr. Lucas votes no. Mr. Green.
 Mr. GREEN. No.
 The CLERK. Mr. Green votes no. Mr. Kuykendall.
 Mr. KUYKENDALL. No.
 The CLERK. Mr. Kuykendall votes no. Mr. Miller.
 [No response.]
 The CLERK. Mrs. Biggert.
 Mrs. BIGGERT. No.
 The CLERK. Mrs. Biggert votes no. Mr. Sanford.
 [No response.]
 The CLERK. Mr. Metcalf.
 Mr. METCALF. No.
 The CLERK. Mr. Metcalf votes no. Mr. Brown.
 [No response.]
 The CLERK. Mr. Hall.
 [No response.]
 The CLERK. Mr. Gordon.
 Mr. GORDON. Yes.
 The CLERK. Mr. Gordon votes yes. Mr. Costello.
 Mr. COSTELLO. Yes.
 The CLERK. Mr. Costello votes yes. Mr. Barcia.
 [No response.]
 The CLERK. Ms. Johnson.
 Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Yes.
 The CLERK. Ms. Johnson votes yes. Ms. Woolsey.
 Ms. WOOLSEY. Aye.
 The CLERK. Ms. Woolsey votes yes. Mr. Hastings.
 [No response.]
 The CLERK. Ms. Rivers.
 Ms. RIVERS. Yes.
 The CLERK. Ms. Rivers votes yes. Ms. Lofgren.
 [No response.]
 The CLERK. Mr. Doyle.
 Mr. DOYLE. Yes.
 The CLERK. Mr. Doyle votes yes. Ms. Jackson Lee.
 Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Aye.
 The CLERK. Ms. Jackson Lee votes yes. Ms. Stabenow.
 Ms. STABENOW. Yes.
 The CLERK. Ms. Stabenow votes yes. Mr. Etheridge.
 Mr. ETHERIDGE. Yes.
 The CLERK. Mr. Etheridge votes yes. Mr. Lampson.
 Mr. LAMPSON. Yes.
 The CLERK. Mr. Lampson votes yes. Mr. Larson.
 Mr. LARSON. Yes.
 The CLERK. Mr. Larson votes yes. Mr. Udall.
 Mr. UDALL. Yes.

The CLERK. Mr. Udall votes yes. Mr. Wu.

Mr. WU. Yes.

The CLERK. Mr. Wu votes yes. Mr. Weiner.

Mr. WEINER. Yes.

The CLERK. Mr. Weiner votes yes. Mr. Capuano.

Mr. CAPUANO. Yes.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Are there any Members in the chamber that wish to cast their vote or change their votes? The gentleman from Michigan?

Mr. BARCIA. I would like to cast my vote aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Barcia votes yes.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Further Members in the chamber who wish to cast or change their votes? There are none. The clerk will report.

The CLERK. Mr. Chairman, yes is 16; no is 18.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. and the amendment is not agreed to.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE - ROLL CALL - 106th CONGRESS

DATE: 4-29-99 SUBJECT: HR 1553 - Amendment by Mr. Costello #6

Rm.	Phone	Member	Yes	No	Not Voting	Present	Absent
2332	55101	Mr. Sensenbrenner, R-WI		1			
2246	53665	Mr. Boehlert, R-NY					✓
2231	54236	Mr. Lamar Smith, R-TX					✓
2228	55341	Mrs. Morella, R-MD		2			
2452	52011	Mr. Curt Weldon, R-PA					✓
2338	52415	Mr. Rohrabacher, R-CA		3			
2264	52002	Mr. Barton, R-TX		4			
2201	51986	Mr. Calvert, R-CA		5			
306	56276	Mr. Nick Smith, R-MI		6			
2412	52721	Mr. Bartlett, R-MD		7			
1714	53831	Mr. Ehlers, R-MI		8			
332	53671	Mr. Dave Weldon, R-FL		9			
425	52472	Mr. Gutknecht, R-MN					✓
2417	52371	Mr. Ewing, R-IL		10			
118	57751	Mr. Cannon, R-UT					✓
1531	54901	Mr. Brady, R-TX		11			
1431	53011	Mr. Cook, R-UT		12			
1527	52006	Mr. Nethercutt, R-WA		13			
438	55565	Mr. Lucas, R-OK		14			
1218	55665	Mr. Green, R-WI		15			
512	58220	Mr. Kuykendall, R-CA		16			
1037	53201	Mr. Miller, R-CA					✓
508	53515	Mrs. Biggert, R-IL		17			
1233	53176	Mr. Sanford, R-SC					✓
1510	52605	Mr. Metcalf, R-WA		18			
2300	56161	Mr. Brown, D-CA					✓
2221	56673	Mr. Hall, D-TX					✓
2368	54231	Mr. Gordon, D-TN	1				
2454	55661	Mr. Costello, D-IL	2				
2419	58171	Mr. Barcia, D-MI	3				
1511	58885	Ms. Johnson, D-TX	4				
439	55161	Ms. Woolsey, D-CA	5				
2235	51313	Mr. Hastings, D-FL					✓
1724	56261	Ms. Rivers, D-MI	6				
318	53072	Ms. Lofgren, D-CA					✓
133	52135	Mr. Doyle, D-PA	7				
410	53816	Ms. Jackson-Lee, D-TX	8				
1039	54872	Ms. Stabenow, D-MI	9				
1641	54531	Mr. Etheridge, D-NC	10				
417	56565	Mr. Lampson, D-TX	11				
1419	52265	Mr. Larson, D-CT	12				
128	52161	Mr. Udall, D-CO	13				
510	50855	Mr. Wu, D-OR	14				
501	56616	Mr. Weiner, D-NY	15				
1232	55111	Mr. Capuano, D-MA	16				
TOTAL			16	18			

Attest: Patricia Schwartz (Clerk) 4-29-99

The next amendment on the roster going back in order is amendment number four, which I understand will be offered by Mr. Costello. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois?

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, thank you. I have an amendment at the desk, please.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The CLERK. "Amendment to H.R. 1553, offered by Mr. Costello."

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Without objection, the amendment is considered as read and the gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

[The information follows:]

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1553 OFFERED BY MR. COSTELLO

Page 7, line 14, strike "\$126,200,000" and insert "\$139,700,000".

Page 7, line 15, strike "\$126,200,000" and insert "\$139,700,000".

Page 7, line 25, strike "and" at the end of subparagraph (C).

Page 8, line 4, strike the period and insert "; and".

Page 8, after line 4, insert the following new subparagraph:

(E) \$13,500,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$13,500,000 for fiscal year 2001 shall be for High Performance Computing.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, thank you. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would restore funding for the High Performance Computing Program. As you know, this Committee has had a long history of involvement in the development of advanced computing and communications systems.

This year, the Administration proposed a New Information for the 21st Century, IT2. The leadership of this Committee, the majority has proposed deleting the funding for the HPCC and NGI activities to be bundled together in a larger computing authorization to be done mid-year. This action raises a number of questions, Mr. Chairman, and I hope I can withdraw this amendment—

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COSTELLO. Yes.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. It is the intention of the Chair relatively soon to offer a bill which deals with High Performance Computing and the IT2 initiative of the Administration. And it is my belief that we should look at this entire issue holistically and to advance legislation for consideration on the House Floor which deals with all of this issue in one package. From a strategic standpoint, as with the NGI bill, which we did in the last Congress, I think it is important that we wrap all of this up in one bill because we have scattered success in the Senate with authorization bills. And some of them will be enacted into law and some of them will drop into the black hole over in the Senate, never to be seen again. And I don't think that that is the way we should be dealing with High Performance Computing or the IT2 initiative. And I think the way we can get the authorizations for all of the agencies that deal with this subject, which includes NOAA, NASA, NIST, Department of Energy, NSF, Department of Defense, and the National Institutes of Health is with one comprehensive package and then have the whole fell swoop be passed and hopefully land on the President's desk so that we don't do this in piecemeal manner because I think that that would be a very serious error on the part of the Congress.

So I am looking forward to working with the gentleman and the minority as we can advance this package bill.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time quickly, if I can ask just a few questions?

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Surely.

Mr. COSTELLO. From a timetable standpoint, since the Appropriations Committee will be marking up and reporting their bills by mid-summer, where does that leave us? What kind of message are we sending?

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. It is my hope that we will have the legislation ready for introduction within a few weeks time and definitely before the Memorial Day break, which is two days long this year. And it is my intention to put this legislation on a fast track.

Mr. COSTELLO. So it is your intention to get the legislation through the Committee over to the appropriators before they mark up?

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. I would hope so. But that is depending upon how quickly the appropriators move. And, as you know, we are in the period of time, you know, where the good intentions about quick movement are frequently stated by them before the wheel starts falling off.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, I would yield to Mr. Doyle the balance of my time.

Mr. DOYLE. Thank you, Mr. Costello. Mr. Chairman, I just want to voice my strong support for Mr. Costello's amendment. High Performance Computing is probably one of the most important and faster growing areas under the jurisdiction of this Committee. High performance super computers and computer scientists at the top of their profession are conducting important work at centers, such as the Pittsburgh Super Computer Center, Universities of Illinois and San Diego and many other schools.

And I just want to close, Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with you on this legislation.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Okay.

Mr. KUYENDALL. Would the gentleman yield?

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. If we would like to get this bill reported out, can we put the statements in the record? Will the gentleman withdraw his amendment?

Mr. COSTELLO. I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Okay, the amendment is withdrawn. We have an amendment by Mr. Kuykendall. For what purpose does the gentleman from California arise?

Mr. KUYKENDALL. I have an amendment at the table.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Okay, the clerk will report the amendment. Without objection, the amendment is considered as read. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes. Without objection, his statement will appear in the record. He yields back the balance of his time. Is there further discussion on the Kuykendall amendment? [Laughter.]

[The information follows:]

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1553 OFFERED BY MR. KUYKENDALL

Page 14, after line 2, insert the following new section:

SEC. 8. INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.

The Administrator shall make available through the Internet home page of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration the abstracts relating to all research grants and awards made with funds authorized by this Act. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require or permit the release of any information prohibited by law or regulation from being released to the public.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment to H.R. 1553, the National Weather Service authorization bill. Like the other three amendments I have offered this morning, this amendment would require the National Weather Service to post abstract information of its grant awards on its internet site. By giving public access to information about how tax dollars are spent, we are acting as responsible stewards of taxpayer resources. We also stimulate additional public and private sector research by informing the research community of efforts already underway. I urge my colleagues to adopt this good government, good fiscal measure and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KUYKENDALL. I would urge an aye vote.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. All those in favor will signify by saying aye.

Opposed, no.

The ayes have it. And the amendment is agreed to.

That completes the number of amendments on the roster. Are there further amendments?

Mr. WU. Mr. Chairman, I have report language at the desk.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. I will get to the report language in just a second. There are no further amendments. Report language? The gentleman from Oregon, Mr. Wu, has report language at the desk. Without objection, the report language is read. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes. Without objection, his statement will appear in the record.

[The information follows:]

REPORT LANGUAGE OFFERED BY MR. WU OF OREGON

The Committee notes the unique geography of the Astoria/Warrenton Airport at the Port of Astoria, Oregon, and the challenges it represents for the National Weather Service. It is the Committee's hope that the Director of the National Weather Service should work with airport officials to ensure that the newly installed Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS), in conjunction with pilot and ground observations, allows the National Weather Service to effectively carry out its mission in the region. Moreover, the Director shall ensure that a local representative is trained in making reports for the NWS in the event of an ASOS failure. If these additional pilot and ground observations fail to address the special needs of this airport, further solutions should be investigated and implemented.

Mr. WU. Thank you.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. And will he yield back the balance of his time like Mr. Kuykendall did?

Mr. WU. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. The gentleman knows that when you got the votes, you vote.

All those in favor of the report language will signify by saying aye.

Opposed, no.

The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it. And Mr. Wu is a winner.

Further report language? Hearing none, the Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Costello, for a motion to report.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee favorably report H.R. 1553, as amended, to the House with the recommendation that the bill as amended do pass. Furthermore, I move that the staff be instructed to prepare the legislative report and make necessary technical and conforming amendments and that the Chairman take all necessary steps to bring the bill before the House for consideration.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Okay. You have heard the motion. Is there discussion? Hearing none, the Chair notes the presence of a reporting quorum.

Those in favor of reporting the bill favorably will say aye.

Opposed, no.

The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it. The bill is reported.

Without objection, the bill will be reported in the form of a single amendment in the nature of a substitute reflecting amendments adopted today. Without objection, pursuant to Rule 22, the Chair is authorized to make motions in the House to go to conference with the Senate on the bill. Members will have two subsequent calendar days in which to submit supplemental, minority, or additional views on the measure.

Does the gentleman from Tennessee wish to make—I will recognize you at the beginning of the next meeting. And the Committee is adjourned. Thank you all. It shows that when we get down to business, we can accomplish a lot.

[Whereupon, at 12:04 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]