

Coalition Support for NOAA/National Weather Service Office of Water Prediction

March 16, 2026

Senator Jerry Moran, Chair
Senator Chris Van Hollen, Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies
H310 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Moran and Ranking Member Van Hollen,

Our coalition of water management and infrastructure stakeholders rely upon and work closely with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Water Prediction (OWP) within the National Weather Service (NWS) to utilize the agency's cutting-edge work on precipitation forecasts, hydrologic modeling and hurricane forecasting. **We urge your continued support for the NWS Office of Water Prediction and the important work it manages to support science-based, informed hydrologic decision making.**

We respectfully request that Congress maintain baseline funding for the National Weather Service, specifically providing for the Office of Water Prediction at no less than the FY2026 enacted level. In addition, we urge continued and expanded support for NCAR's research efforts that enhance our nation's capacity for water prediction and management. Doing so will safeguard the OWP's and NCAR's crucial functions that **protect life, ensure public safety, and underpin our economy.**

Additionally, we strongly support continuing NOAA's role as one of the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)'s largest sources of funding due to its vital role in advancing streamflow forecasting, water security and economic interests. NCAR's research benefits a broad spectrum of stakeholders by providing predictive models and tools for various scales and applications. Notably, NCAR developed the Weather Research and Forecasting Hydrologic model, central to NOAA's National Water Model, which enhances streamflow and coastal inundation forecasts across multiple U.S. regions. NCAR also addresses regional planning, hydrologic variability and supports agriculture with tailored weather prediction tools. Recognizing these contributions, ICWP urges continued robust NOAA funding for NCAR to address future challenges in weather, hydrology and global competition.

If you have further questions, feel free to contact any of us or Interstate Council on Water Policy Executive Director Beth Callaway at: beth@icwp.org or 307-772-1999.

Respectfully,

Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
Interstate Council on Water Policy

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National Hydrologic Warning Council
National Water Resources Association
National Water Supply Alliance
Association of State Floodplain Managers