Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 22, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Collins, Ranking Member Murray, Chair Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We write to express our bipartisan bicameral support for continued funding for the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) as the FY 2026 appropriations process moves to conference. As the Committees finalize the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies bill, we believe NCAR represents a sound, forward-looking federal investment that delivers tangible benefits to communities, industries, and public agencies across the nation, particularly in weather forecasting, disaster preparedness, agriculture, and water management.

We agree with the President's FY 2026 National Science Foundation Budget Request regarding the importance of NCAR as a national research and infrastructure asset. As the Budget request states:

"The National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) is an NSF-sponsored Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) guided by the vision: 'a world-class research center leading, promoting and facilitating innovation in the atmospheric and related Earth Systems sciences.' NCAR addresses this vision with integrated research and facilities organized around three overlapping areas of activity: cutting-edge airborne and ground-based observational facilities; community weather and climate models with thousands of users worldwide; and petascale high-performance computing."

NCAR's integrated approach ensures that federal investments in weather and Earth-system science translate into practical, usable tools. Its community weather and seasonal forecast models underpin forecasting systems used by federal agencies, the military, state and local governments, universities, and private-sector partners. These models support a wide range of real-world applications, including agricultural planning, drought and water management, wildfire behavior

analysis, flood forecasting, aviation safety, and emergency preparedness. Their research in the Earth-sun system is invaluable for understanding and predicting solar weather. Solar weather storms threaten satellites in orbit that provide crucial GPS and communications capabilities, posing a risk to our military, emergency responders, and banking systems.

In agriculture, NCAR-supported modeling and data tools help producers anticipate seasonal variability, manage water resources, and mitigate weather-related risk. In wildfire-prone regions, NCAR research improves understanding of fire behavior and smoke transport, supporting more effective preparedness and response. For emergency managers, improved modeling and data integration contribute to earlier warnings and better coordination during extreme weather events —saving lives and reducing economic losses.

As the President's Budget further recognizes, continued operation of the NCAR-Wyoming Supercomputer Center is essential for the integration, analysis, and modeling of large and complex data sets. This computing capacity enables more accurate forecasts and supports the growing demand for data-intensive applications across government and industry, including defense, aviation, and critical infrastructure planning, ensuring the United States remains competitive in weather and Earth system science.

As an NSF-sponsored FFRDC, NCAR serves as a shared national resource that promotes efficiency and collaboration. By providing common infrastructure and open modeling frameworks, NCAR reduces duplication, strengthens partnerships, and ensures that federal research dollars are leveraged across states and sectors.

As conferees complete the FY 2026 bill, we respectfully request sustained funding for NCAR. Continued investment will ensure that NCAR can maintain its core capabilities and continue delivering practical, high-value outcomes that support economic resilience, public safety, and informed decision-making nationwide. Funding for NCAR is essential to maintaining America's leadership in global weather forecasting and to protecting our economy, our communities, and the everyday livelihoods of families across the nation.

Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership throughout the appropriations process.

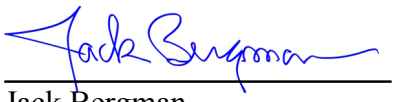
Sincerely,

Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

Jeff Hurd
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

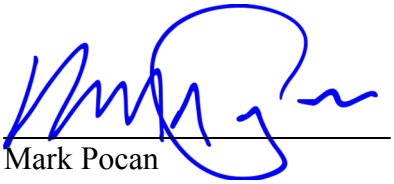
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress

Jill Tokuda
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

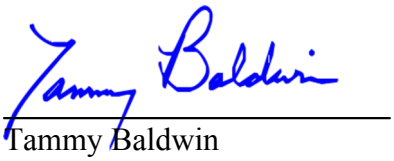
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

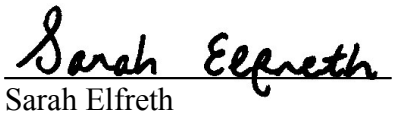
Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
Member of Congress

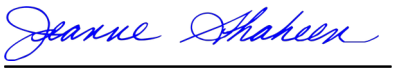
Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



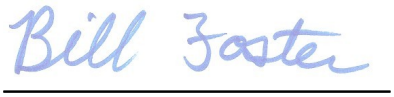
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress

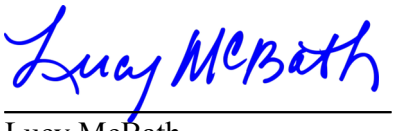


Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

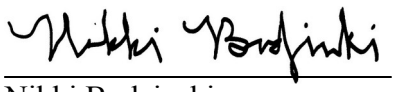


Bill Foster
Member of Congress

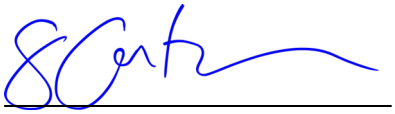
Adelita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



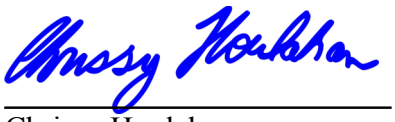
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



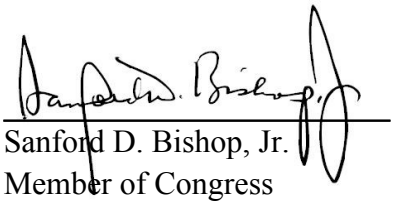
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



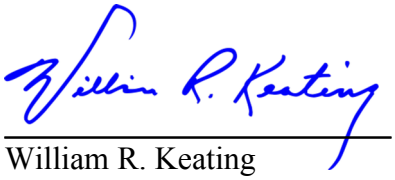
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress

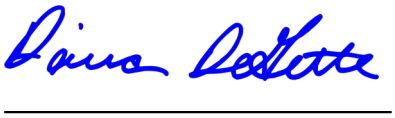


Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Dave Min
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

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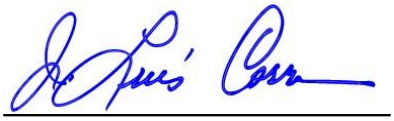
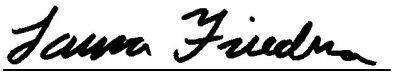
John Garamendi
Member of Congress

George Whitesides
Member of Congress

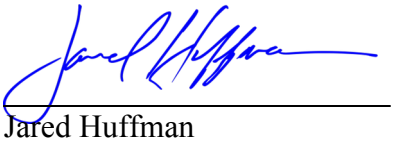
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



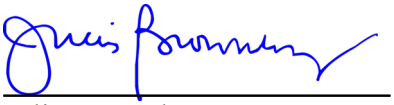
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



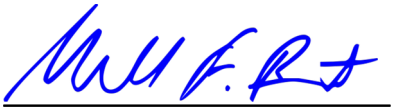
Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



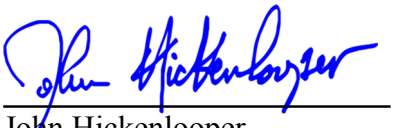
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



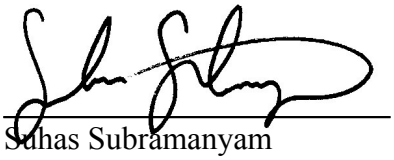
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator

Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress

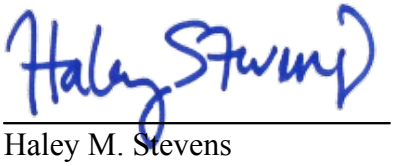
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress

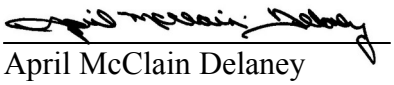
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Gabe Amo
Member of Congress

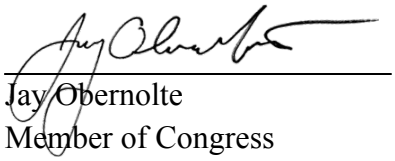


Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress

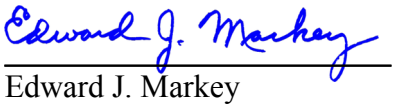
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress

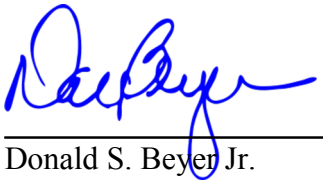


Jay Obernolte
Member of Congress

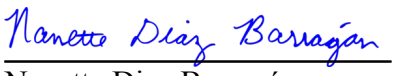


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress

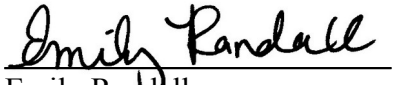


Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress

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Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress

Mike Levin
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Val Hoyle
Member of Congress

Greg Stanton
Member of Congress

Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress

Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress

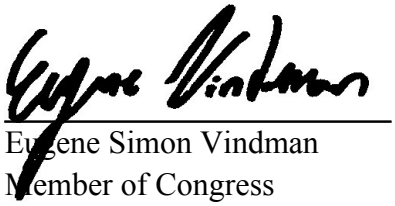
Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress

Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress

Laura A. Gillen
Member of Congress

Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress

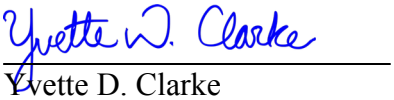
Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



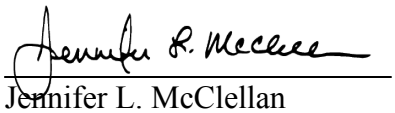
Eugene Simon Vindman
Member of Congress

Sarah McBride
Member of Congress

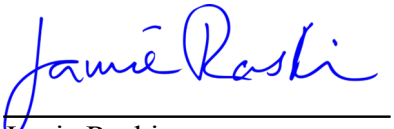
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



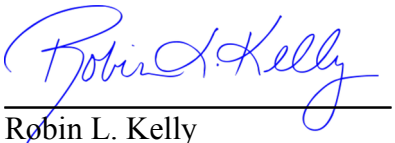
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

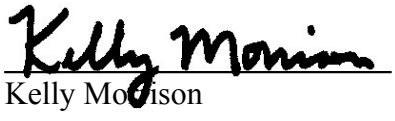
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress

Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress

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Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress