



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

SCHOOL OF MARINE AFFAIRS

June 5, 2009

Dr. Jane Lubchenco
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Room 5128
14th St & Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Lubchenco,

With this letter, I would like to transmit for your consideration the final report of the Science Advisory Board's Climate Working Group, "Options for Developing a National Climate Service." This report involved a large number of climate scientists and administrators from NOAA, academia, the private sector and Non Governmental Organizations [NGOs] led by the NOAA SAB Climate Working Group.

Background

In 2008, NOAA developed a *Draft Strategic Plan for a Climate Service*. NOAA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) and its subordinate Climate Working Group (CWG) sought advice on NOAA's plan during a June 2008 workshop, consisting of over 80 participants largely external to NOAA and representing a wide range of sectors and backgrounds. This workshop resulted in the *Climate Services External Review Report* (July 15, 2008) which suggested that NOAA lead and effort, with its partners, to compare and contrast specific options for the development of climate services against a set of guiding principles for a robust and successful service. The workshop recommended the establishment of external Tiger Teams to evaluate four different options for developing a National Climate Service and the SAB endorsed this recommendation. The SAB CWG established four Tiger Teams and a Coordinating Committee in response to evaluate the pros and cons of each option.

This effort was designed to provide a new report entitled *Options for Developing a National Climate Service*. The process was placed on a fast track to be available in time to enable a new administration to make well-reasoned choices on the development of a National Climate Service.

The options evaluated are:

1. Create a national climate service federation that would determine how to deliver climate services to the nation
2. Create a non-profit corporation with federal sponsorship
3. Create a national climate service with NOAA as the lead agency with specifically defined partners, and
4. Expand and improve weather services into weather and climate services within NOAA.

In addition, the Coordinating Committee encourages NOAA and its partners to maintain a community advisory function as the steps are taken to develop a National Climate Service that is of real value to the Nation.

NOAA's SAB reviewed the CWG "Options" report at its March meeting and suggested some adjustments. Subsequently the SAB held a teleconference discussion on the final report and approved its content and recommendations. The formation of a National Climate Service is one of the most pressing and important challenges and opportunities facing NOAA and the nation today.

On behalf of the NOAA SAB I assure you that we look forward to working with you, NOAA staff, NOAA partners and stakeholders on implementing the important recommendations of the Options Report.

Sincerely,



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