

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5994

To require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to identify a consistent, Federal set of best available forward-looking meteorological information and to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to convene an effort to make such set available, with advice and technical assistance, to standards-developing organizations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2020

Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. BACON, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SOTO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. FITZPATRICK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to identify a consistent, Federal set of best available forward-looking meteorological information and to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to convene an effort to make such set available, with advice and technical assistance, to standards-developing organizations, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Built to Last Act of
3 2020”.

4 **SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF CON-**
5 **SISTENT, FEDERAL SET OF BEST AVAILABLE**
6 **FORWARD-LOOKING METEOROLOGICAL IN-**
7 **FORMATION.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
10 the Director of the National Institute of Standards
11 and Technology.

12 (2) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term “Under
13 Secretary” means the Under Secretary of Commerce
14 for Oceans and Atmosphere.

15 (3) EXTREME WEATHER.—The term “extreme
16 weather” includes observed or anticipated severe and
17 unseasonable atmospheric conditions, including
18 drought, heavy precipitation, hurricanes, tornadoes
19 and other windstorms (including derechos), extreme
20 heat, extreme cold, flooding, sustained temperatures
21 or precipitation that deviate substantially from his-
22 torical averages, and any other weather event that
23 the Under Secretary determines qualifies as extreme
24 weather.

25 (4) OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL TRENDS.—The
26 term “other environmental trends” means wildfires,

1 coastal flooding, inland flooding, land subsidence,
2 rising sea levels, and any other challenges relating to
3 changes in environmental systems over time that the
4 Under Secretary determines qualify as environ-
5 mental challenges other than extreme weather.

6 (5) MITIGATION FRAMEWORK LEADERSHIP
7 GROUP.—The term “Mitigation Framework Leader-
8 ship Group” means the Mitigation Framework Lead-
9 ership Group established pursuant to the Post-
10 Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of
11 2006 (Public Law 109–295; 6 U.S.C. 701 note), or
12 successor group.

13 (6) UNITED STATES GLOBAL CHANGE RE-
14 SEARCH PROGRAM.—The term “United States Glob-
15 al Change Research Program” means the United
16 States Global Change Research Program established
17 under section 103 of the Global Change Research
18 Act of 1990 (15 U.S.C. 2933).

19 (7) LONG-TERM.—The term “long-term” shall
20 have such meaning as the Director, in consultation
21 with the Under Secretary, considers appropriate for
22 purposes of this section.

23 (b) IDENTIFICATION OF CONSISTENT, FEDERAL SET
24 OF BEST AVAILABLE METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary shall
2 identify and support research that enables, a con-
3 sistent, Federal set of forward-looking long-term me-
4 teorological information that—

5 (A) models future extreme weather events,
6 other environmental trends, projections, and
7 up-to-date observations; and

8 (B) is suitable for use under subsection
9 (c).

10 (2) MESOSCALE METEOROLOGICAL INFORMA-
11 TION.—When the Under Secretary determines ap-
12 propriate or upon request of the Director, the Under
13 Secretary shall provide the Director with mesoscale
14 meteorological information that is suitable for use
15 under subsection (c).

16 (c) ADVICE, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND DISSEMI-
17 NATION.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall, in con-
19 sultation with the Under Secretary—

20 (A) make available to the public informa-
21 tion identified under subsection (b);

22 (B) identify Federal and non-Federal ef-
23 forts to develop and adopt standards, building
24 codes, and voluntary certifications; and

1 (C) using the best available, consistent,
2 Federal set of forward-looking long-term mete-
3 orological information identified under sub-
4 section (b)—

5 (i) advise and provide technical assist-
6 ance to organizations that develop stand-
7 ards, model building codes, or voluntary
8 certifications in order for such organiza-
9 tions to appropriately incorporate forward-
10 looking long-term meteorological informa-
11 tion into such standards, building codes,
12 and voluntary certifications; and

13 (ii) take appropriate steps to make in-
14 formation identified under subsection (b)
15 available to the entities described in clause
16 (i) developing such standards, model build-
17 ing codes, and voluntary certifications.

18 (2) REQUIREMENT.—The Director shall carry
19 out paragraph (1) through each of the following:

20 (A) The Fire Research Center, established
21 under section 16 of the Act entitled “An Act to
22 establish the National Bureau of Standards”,
23 approved March 3, 1901 (15 U.S.C. 278f).

24 (B) The National Windstorm Impact Re-
25 duction Program, established under section 204

1 of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction
2 Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15703).

3 (C) Such other authorizations as the Di-
4 rector considers appropriate.

5 (d) WORKING GROUP.—In order to identify and sup-
6 port research that enable information as required under
7 subsection (b), the Director of the Office of Science and
8 Technology Policy, in coordination with the United States
9 Global Change Research Program and the Mitigation
10 Framework Leadership Group, shall designate a working
11 group consisting of representatives from such Federal
12 agencies as the Director of the Office of Science and Tech-
13 nology Policy considers appropriate.

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