



## WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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June 5, 2007

The Honorable Mark Udall  
100 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bob Inglis  
330 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Udall and Representative Inglis,

On behalf of the Western Governors' Association, we are writing to commend you for introducing H.R. 906, "The Global Climate Change Research Data and Management Act of 2007."

The Western Governors believe it is not only appropriate, but also is necessary to reorient and fully fund the U.S. Global Change Research Program to make it more user-driven. The U.S. has spent considerable dollars on understanding the science of climate change, and we must now look to addressing and adequately funding the issue of adaptation. The focus of the USGCRP research must now move with greater focus to help states, tribes and local governments understand what that means: How will climate change manifest itself in different areas of the country? What impacts can we expect at the state and local levels? How can we prepare for the change in an effort to avoid or mitigate the impacts? How can we most effectively implement adaptation measures given that many of them will require a long lead-time?

One recommendation that we would make for the bill is to amend it to address the need for a National Climate Information Service in the context of USGCRP. Such a service could be the focal point for coordination of climate activities across the federal government. The National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) that you authorized the last year would thus become an important component of this larger climate information system.


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Decision-makers at all levels of government and in the private sector need reliable and timely information to understand the possible impacts and corresponding vulnerabilities that are posed by climate change so they can plan and respond accordingly. The Western Governors' Association supports H.R. 906 as an effort to move the nation's climate change research program in this direction.

Sincerely,



M. Michael Rounds  
Governor of South Dakota  
Chairman



Dave Freudenthal  
Governor of Wyoming  
Vice Chairman