



Alan I. Leshner
Chief Executive Officer and
Executive Publisher, *Science*

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The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, IV
U.S. Senate
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
U.S. Senate
560 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Rockefeller and Hutchison:

On behalf of AAAS, the largest general scientific society in the world, I am writing to express our support for the inclusion of provisions to establish a strong climate change research program and a National Climate Service in the Senate climate bill. As your committee has indicated in previous hearings and legislation, science and technology are essential for helping society understand, adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change and we support efforts to transfer this knowledge to policymakers at all levels.

We think it is essential to reshape the U.S. Global Research Program (USGCRP) to make its research more relevant to policymakers and support the recommendations of the 2007 National Academy of Science report *Evaluating Progress of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program: Methods and Preliminary Results*. USGCRP should build upon its historic strength in identifying and attributing global temperature trends and their corresponding environmental effects, but it would also benefit from a new emphasis on local and regional impacts and adaptation plans, and it should incorporate the results of recent social science research. A national assessment would help link the latest research to stakeholders and would provide an invaluable resource for policymakers to assess mitigation and adaptation strategies.

On a day-to-day basis, a National Climate Service can also serve as a conduit for information on climate impacts to local, regional and national decisionmakers. In addition to the 13 federal agencies that currently comprise the USGCRP, many state, local and tribal entities, as well as universities, research institutions and other non-governmental organizations have relevant expertise. An interagency and multi-sector coordination office is needed to direct climate research and climate services and ensure that the data distributed are scientifically sound, timely, and authoritative.

We appreciate your efforts to advance climate change science and improve its use to policymakers at all levels. AAAS stands ready to assist with this important issue.

Sincerely,

Alan I. Leshner