

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5002

To reinstate all employees and programs at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that help communities prepare for and mitigate damage from extreme weather events.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 19, 2025

Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. CASAR, Mr. STANTON, Mr. AMO, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, and Mr. MOSKOWITZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To reinstate all employees and programs at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that help communities prepare for and mitigate damage from extreme weather events.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protect Americans
5 from Climate Disasters Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The Fifth United States National Climate
4 Assessment reported that human-caused climate var-
5 iability such as extended droughts, longer wildfire
6 seasons, heavy rainfall, and sea level rise affects the
7 frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.

8 (2) According to the National Oceanic and At-
9 mospheric Administration (NOAA), the number and
10 cost of extreme weather and climate disasters have
11 increased over time and will continue to increase in
12 the United States due to climate change, increased
13 urbanization, and development in weather prone
14 areas.

15 (3) According to the National Centers for Envi-
16 ronmental Information, from 2020 to 2024 alone,
17 weather and climate disasters cost the United States
18 over \$746,700,000,000 and led to 2,520 deaths.

19 (4) Americans rely on weather information pro-
20 vided by NOAA every day for emergency disaster
21 alerts, forecasting, data collection, and more.

22 (5) Staffing reductions at the National Weather
23 Service and NOAA have resulted in decreased capac-
24 ity to forecast extreme weather events, the elimi-
25 nation of some products and services, and the dete-

1 rioration of environmental scientific research, which
2 poses a threat to public safety.

3 (6) The 5 former living National Weather Serv-
4 ice leaders wrote an open letter expressing their deep
5 concern that the staff and program cuts at NOAA
6 may result in the loss of life.

7 (7) NOAA’s Billion-Dollar Weather and Cli-
8 mate Disasters product has been eliminated, reduc-
9 ing publicly available data that tracked the economic
10 impact of United States weather and climate trends
11 since 1980.

12 **SEC. 3. DEFINITION.**

13 In this Act, the term “NOAA” means the National
14 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

15 **SEC. 4. NOAA STAFFING AND PERSONNEL.**

16 Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment
17 of this Act, using funds previously appropriated for such
18 purposes, the Secretary of Commerce shall—

19 (1) take such actions as are necessary to ensure
20 that NOAA, including the National Weather Service,
21 is fully staffed to ensure timely and accurate data,
22 forecasts, weather alerts, and resiliency resources
23 are available to prepare for extreme weather events;
24 and

25 (2) reinstate any individuals who—

1 (A) were involuntarily removed or other-
2 wise terminated from employment with NOAA
3 during the period beginning on January 20,
4 2025, and ending on the date of the enactment
5 of this Act; and

6 (B) elect to be reinstated.

7 **SEC. 5. CONTINUATION OF AUTHORIZED NOAA PROGRAMS.**

8 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of Commerce—

9 (1) shall continue to carry out any programs
10 for which funds have been appropriated that support
11 State and local efforts to prepare for and respond to
12 extreme weather events; and

13 (2) may not make any changes to existing con-
14 gressionally mandated programs that will reduce ac-
15 cess to extreme weather resources.

16 (b) ACTIONS REQUIRED.—In carrying out subsection
17 (a)—

18 (1) the Secretary of Commerce shall imme-
19 diately reinstate the Billion-Dollar Weather and Cli-
20 mate Disasters product and carry out any project
21 for which funds have been made available under
22 such program;

23 (2) the Secretary of Commerce shall imme-
24 diately reinstate the NOAA Marine Environmental
25 Buoy Database and carry out any project for which

1 funds have been made available under such program;
2 and

3 (3) the Secretary of Commerce shall imme-
4 diately reinstate the NOAA Global Ocean Currents
5 Database and carry out any project for which funds
6 have been made available under such program.

7 **SEC. 6. NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINIS-**
8 **TRATION FUNDING.**

9 There is appropriated to the Department of Com-
10 merce, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise
11 appropriated, for the fiscal year ending on September 30,
12 2026, \$6,756,300,000 for the necessary expenses of Na-
13 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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