

Mr. Brian Stone, Chief of Staff, Office of the Director
National Science Foundation
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Response to Dear Colleague Letter: NSF Intent to Restructure Critical Weather Infrastructure

We are writing as the two UCAR Member representatives from the Department of Atmospheric Science (ATS) at Colorado State University (CSU). Our Department has already responded collectively with extreme concern to the proposal to disband the NSF National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). The Department letter is consistent with the view of the large professional organizations the American Meteorological Society and American Geophysical Union and emphasizes that disrupting the unique and critical services that NCAR provides **will harm meteorological research and innovation in the United States with severe consequences to current and future efforts of the weather enterprise to protect life, property, and the nation's economy.** This letter is intended to specifically address why the current governance structure of NCAR/UCAR is critical and should not be disrupted. This letter specifically addresses the DCL question: *Are there other concepts for management and operations of NCAR activities that differ from the current model that NSF should consider?*

As UCAR member representatives we actively participate in the governance of UCAR that directly leads to the management and operations of NCAR. The UCAR consortium includes 129 North American colleges and universities that appoint member representatives who serve as vital links between the academic community, NSF NCAR, and the other programs and projects managed by UCAR. Our role as member representatives is to keep university colleagues informed about UCAR activities, serve on UCAR governance committees, and represent the university perspectives and positions to UCAR and NSF NCAR. The existence of member representatives and their activities are critical to the success of this institution. UCAR member representatives attend the UCAR Annual Members Meeting which is a convening of our scientific and academic community. NCAR reports back to the community through this meeting. Members also discuss topics of importance to the university community and help shape the future of the National Center at this gathering through feedback to UCAR and NCAR leadership and by voting on the individuals who lead the community governance through the Board of Trustees and other committees. Prof. Bell (co-signer) served on the President's Advisory Committee for University Relations (PACUR) which provides a direct line from the University community to the UCAR president to voice concerns and

provide feedback on how NCAR can best serve the science community. He now serves on the Members Nominating Committee that nominates individuals from the scientific community to be elected to serve on UCAR committees and participate in the governance process. Prof. Fischer has previously served on the Members Nominating Committee as well.

The direct governance by the community that NCAR serves is an outstanding model that has served that same community and the general public very well for decades. Our volunteer service as member representatives and other governance roles is undertaken to help guide NCAR strategic planning and services that benefit the public and maximize the collective efforts of the weather enterprise to protect life, property, and the nation's economy. Transference of management of **any** aspects of NCAR management to a private company or contractor would limit the ability of the people who know the activities of NCAR the best to provide the strategic guidance and input that optimizes those activities, resulting in irreparable harm to our mission. ***We can think of no better model for management of NCAR than the current community governance model and strongly recommend that this model continue into the future.***

Sincerely,



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