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AGU requested the community submit responses to the NSF RFI on dismantling NCAR. I submitted the following response which incorporates some of their suggested points.

I would like to submit the following comment responding to the NSF announcement stating its intent to restructure critical weather science infrastructure at NCAR.

My expertise in brief: As NCAR program officer for 25 years, I understand the crucial contributions this institution has made to the Nation.

My comments: NCAR has consistently demonstrated its efficiency and effectiveness as a unified entity, proving its value to the nation over several decades. In my experience, NCAR consistently earns high marks in the peer review process by reviewers across academia, government, and industry. When issues arise, NCAR and its manager, the University Corporation for Atmospheric Science (UCAR), address them promptly and successfully. This is based on more than 30 reviews over more than two decades that involved hundreds of reviewers.

NCAR was founded to unite people, ideas, and tools to tackle major weather challenges. Its strong partnerships with academia, government, and industry have made it highly effective. Disbanding NCAR would weaken these relationships and reduce its ability to support public safety, disaster preparedness, national security, and health needs. The rationale behind the Administration's consideration to dismantle NCAR remains unclear.

Dividing NCAR would likely incur significant costs and introduce operational inefficiencies. Such an action could lead to the loss of valuable data, expertise, and institutional knowledge.

The collective expertise of the university community, both national and international, along with NCAR, has effectively leveraged a key U.S. strength to benefit society. Fragmenting this approach would weaken American leadership.

Additionally, NCAR supplies critical private and non-governmental sector data to numerous partners, including:

- Agriculture (such as crop insurance providers, farmers, and others reliant on weather or water resource data)
- Chambers of commerce
- Water utilities at both city and county levels
- Private weather companies
- Airline and aerospace industries

- Insurance and reinsurance firms
- The financial risk industry

Eliminating NCAR would cause irreparable harm. I urge NSF to block any efforts dismantle NCAR.