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**Public Comment: Please Keep NCAR Whole — NSF 26-203**

1 message

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**Matt Savoie** <mattie@flamingbear.com>

Thu, Mar 12, 2026 at 8:45 AM

To: NSF\_NCAR@nsf.gov

To the NSF NCAR Restructuring Team,

I'm writing as both a scientist and a citizen who cares deeply about what NCAR does for everyday Americans.

I have an MS in Atmospheric Science from Colorado State University and have spent 25 years as a scientific programmer at the National Snow and Ice Data Center. I know what NCAR does at a technical level, but I want to focus this comment on something simpler: what regular people lose if NCAR gets broken apart.

Whenever someone checks a hurricane forecast, a farmer decides when to irrigate, or a pilot avoids severe turbulence, NCAR science is quietly working in the background. NCAR researchers essentially eliminated fatal microburst crashes in U.S. aviation by convincing the FAA to deploy radar warning systems. Their flood prediction model is used operationally by the National Weather Service in over 3,800 locations, protecting some 3 million people. A next-generation crop decision tool developed in partnership with NCAR could save Nebraska farmers alone up to \$100 million in irrigation costs annually. These are real, public benefits paid for by public investment.

The argument that these capabilities can simply be redistributed across universities and contractors misunderstands what makes NCAR work. It's not just the science, it's the integration. Decades of trusted relationships with NOAA, the FAA, the military, and the National Weather Service have been built around NCAR as a unified institution. You can't hand the pieces out and expect the same result.

Since 1980, weather disasters have cost the U.S. over \$3.1 trillion. A National Academies study found that weather forecasts and warnings deliver roughly \$31.5 billion in annual economic benefits to the country. Fragmenting NCAR to save money in the short term is a false economy that will cost far more down the road in lives and disaster damage.

I strongly urge NSF to maintain NCAR as a unified institution. Farmers, travelers, people in hurricane and flood zones, and military families all depend on it in ways most will never know, until it's gone.

Matthew Savoie

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