



March 12, 2026

Dear NSF Acting Director Stone and NCAR-focused team,

I'm writing in request to comment about the intent to restructure the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). It is my strong opinion, based on multiple decades of leadership in Earth and climate focused research, that **NSF is actively creating multiple problems by pulling apart NCAR rather than solving an existing problem.** Here I bullet several key issues:

- Major computing and research systems have been built around NCAR capabilities and dismantling and redistributing NCAR physical and cyberinfrastructure will create cascading slowdowns, expenses, and serious roadblocks for both publicly and privately funded research endeavors. Many research and operation systems rely on foundational code and data that are costly and time-consuming to adjust. Smoothly operating and consistent administrative and data systems enable efficient, effective workflows. **Changes to NCAR functions, data systems, and administrative systems will harm US knowledge production and operational outputs, create inefficiencies, and increase costs.**
- NSF questions and comments imply that NCAR research topics will be separated and may be supported in narrower silos, with topics on climate perhaps even abandoned. This is exactly the opposite action as what is needed. Climate and weather are intrinsically tied together. As human-created climate change continues to bring unprecedented and growing risks, hazards, and extreme weather events, it is only more critical that climate and weather knowledge be formed and progressed together. **NCAR's ability to tie together weather and climate makes it an invaluable US asset that provides critical environmental intelligence to US businesses, industries, government, and public.** The range of stakeholders served is vast, from the airline industry to agriculture to insurance and finance to Arctic security to drought and flood planning to supply chain planning, and many more.
- Comments are also sought regarding student and community member training. The physical infrastructure and online resources of NCAR already provide excellent capabilities in this area. I have myself planned and attended multiple research workshops at the NCAR facility. **Ongoing evaluation and evolution of the use of buildings and similar infrastructure is encouraged, but in this case, NSF appears again to be suggesting a problem that doesn't exist, and is likely to create and then exacerbate the problem with restructuring.**

- Finally, NSF asks for comment about the performance objectives and metrics that should be used to assess a restructured atmospheric research center. This suggests to me that restructuring was not prompted by an appropriate assessment of performance for NCAR as it stands today, but instead a knee-jerk, politically-motivated action. I strongly believe that a thorough assessment of NCAR's current performance as an atmospheric research center would clearly confirm that it is indeed a world-leading center that provides substantial benefit and critical services to public and private stakeholders across the US (and the globe). Indeed, NCAR has been a lynch pin in establishing the US as a leader in climate and weather research. **NSF should resist poorly-motivated restructuring and instead double down on maintaining NCAR as an invaluable national asset, leading on weather, space weather, atmospheric, and climate research and intelligence.**

Sincerely,



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