



CONGRESSMAN ALAN B. MOLLOHAN, CHAIRMAN

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE & RELATED AGENCIES

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Opening Statement of Chairman Alan B. Mollohan

Critical Satellite Climate Change Datasets – Afternoon Hearing

Good afternoon, Dr. Busalacchi and Dr. Karl, and welcome before the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Subcommittee. We appreciate you coming today to help us understand the requirements for long-term satellite observations to support the understanding, prediction and monitoring of climate change and the specific characteristics required of the systems that provide them. Requirements for precision, accuracy, calibration, and continuity influence costs, but meeting these requirements is critical to getting value from investments in Earth observations. For example, the just enacted Omnibus Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2009 provides \$74 million to restore two climate instruments to the payload of the NPOESS satellite, and \$150 million to accelerate development of Earth observation satellites recommended by the National Research Council. In addition, the resulting data must be preserved and made available.

We have asked each of you to focus on the critical insight into climate change contributed by particular sets of satellite observations together with ground-based, ship, aircraft, balloon, and buoy measurements. Dr. Busalacchi, we've asked you to cover oceans data, an example of which is displayed on the wall behind me. Satellite remote sensing has proven quite helpful to oceanography even though the penetration of electromagnetic radiation into ocean water is limited. Dr. Karl, you have dedicated many years to leading the National Climate Data Center with its treasure of atmospheric data. We have asked you to cover atmospheric observations and the role and requirements of climate data systems.

Your written statements will be entered in the record, but before I call for your oral statements, I recognize Mr. Wolf, the ranking member of this subcommittee for his opening statement.