



CONGRESSMAN ALAN B. MOLLOHAN, CHAIRMAN

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

For Immediate Release – March 19, 2009

Contact: David Herring 202-225-4172

david.herring@mail.house.gov

Opening Statement of Chairman Alan B. Mollohan

Climate Satellite Requirements, and NASA and NOAA Programs

Good morning, Dr. Moore and Dr. Anthes, 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 several budget cycles, this subcommittee has been wrestling with cost growth, schedule slips, and payload descoping of the NPOESS program. Traditional management wisdom says that one should be able to control two of these three factors, but in this disastrous case, control of all of them has been lost. To restore essential climate change scope, the just enacted Omnibus Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2009 provides \$74 million to restore a clouds and radiation sensor to the NPOESS Preparatory Program and a second copy of this instrument and a complementary solar instrument to the payload of the first NPOESS satellite. \$150 million is provided in the Omnibus and \$400 million in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to accelerate development of Earth observation satellites recommended by the National Research Council.

To gain the benefit of flying the suite of climate instruments and satellites the Nation needs effective data systems and centers, numerical models capable of assimilating these and other data, and an organizational structure to engage the research, data provider, and user communities. Information products must be developed and provided for use on regional to global scales and covering time spans from the seasonal to the multi-decadal. Dr. Moore and Dr. Anthes, we look forward to gaining your insights as we work to ensure that the Nation has a credible climate change research and operational program to complement, guide, and inform the major investments being made in transformative energy technologies, infrastructure, and policy.

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.