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Climate: National Academy of Science Letter to Gore February 8, 1993

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February , 1993

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO: Al/Katie

FROM: Tony Socci

RE: Letter/Request from the National Research Council

The National Research Council of the National academy has asked me to pass along this letter to Al. NRC's Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate (BASC) is seeking a license and support for an overview and a set of recommendations which will examine options for government restructuring to address atmospheric/climate and environmental issues, and others, with an eye to a broader vision, and an evaluation of their potential contribution to the welfare of the nation.

The proposed task would carry a cost of appx. 1.1 million dollars total, over a three-year period. Possible sources of funding might include OMB, OSTP, John Gibbon's office, or others, or a combination of those and more.

DETERMINED TO BE AN ADMINISTRATIVE

MARKING INITIALS: MY DATE: 1/30/2017

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MARKING INITIALS: MAY DATE: 1/30/2017

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

COMMISSION ON GEOSCIENCES, ENVIRONMENT, AND RESOURCES

2101 Constitution Avenue Washington, D.C. 20418

BOARD ON ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES AND CLIMATE

(202) 334-3512

February 8, 1993

The Vice President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

Your leadership on atmospheric and environmental matters while in the Senate prompts us to inform you of a task the National Research Council's Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate (NRC/BASC) is proposing to undertake. The BASC intends to produce an overview and recommendations concerning scientific foundations for forecasting severe weather, anticipating future climates, and formulating sensible policies regarding the stewardship of the global atmosphere and our nation's environmental resources.

This inventory and critical assessment of scientific progress and allocation of intellectual and material resources are important in planning future directions of research. Congressman George Brown, for example, has urged that federal support for science must be justified in the context of a broader vision and evaluated on its contribution to the welfare of the nation. The study will address this important issue and others, including options for government restructuring to address atmospheric and environmental issues, the potential for private industry as a viable research partner, and setting priorities and making tough decisions on allocation of resources.

Atmospheric science has progressed rapidly over the nearly two decades since the last such assessment of the field. Among other things, the NRC's previous studies helped point the nation's environmental research priorities toward climate change and the potential impact of increasing levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide. These studies motivated a focus on the critical role of trace gases and aerosols in climate, air pollution and acid rain, and on the large-scale dynamics and circulation of the earth's atmosphere.

Still under consideration, our proposal to "assess the opportunities, challenges, and imperatives for the atmospheric sciences entering the twenty-first century" was first presented over two years ago to the interagency Subcommittee on

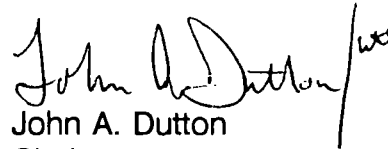
The Vice President
February 8, 1993
Page 2

Atmospheric Research, which is under the Committee on Earth and Environmental Sciences of the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering and Technology.

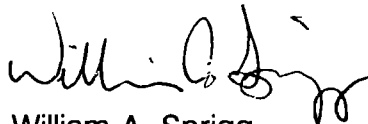
Meteorological operations and atmospheric sciences were funded in this country at about \$2 billion for operations and nearly \$1 billion for research in 1990. Clearly, oversight and prudent planning suggest that this study be done. The study will cost approximately \$1.1 million and take three years to complete, but it will seek consensus among federal agencies, technical societies such as the American Meteorological Society and American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the research community at large. We are encouraged as well by enquiries from other countries seeking to collaborate; after all, atmospheric sciences and services depend considerably on international cooperation and a shared agenda and supporting resources.

The BASC seeks both to strengthen U.S. science and to make science relevant to our nation's policies. Considering your interests in scientific issues and your leadership in formulating federal science policy, we respectfully invite your participation in the proposed study.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Dutton" with a stylized flourish at the end.

John A. Dutton
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William A. Sprigg" with a stylized flourish at the end.

William A. Sprigg
Director

BOARD ON ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES AND CLIMATE
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

2101 Constitution Avenue Washington, D. C. 20418

The Vice President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

PROSPECTUS

OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES, AND IMPERATIVES

for the

ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES

ENTERING THE 21st CENTURY

BOARD ON ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE AND CLIMATE

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

MAJOR SCIENTIFIC DIRECTIONS, CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES

- **Climate -- Past, Present, Future**
- **Weather and Storm Systems**
- **Atmospheric Dynamics and Modeling**
- **Atmospheric Physics and Electricity**
- **Atmospheric Chemistry and Air Quality**

EXAMINED ACROSS SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- **Protection of Life and Property** -- *Severe Storms, Weather, Climate*
- **Global Stewardship** -- *Water Resources, Air Quality, Ozone, Climate Change*
- **Economic Value of Weather Information**

WITH A FOCUS ON RESOURCES AND SPECIAL NEEDS

- **Education**
 - **Enabling Technology**
 - **Institutional Arrangements**
-

ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES -- 21st CENTURY

WORKING PAPERS

- **Atmospheric Chemistry and Air Quality**
- **Atmospheric Dynamics and Modeling**
- **Atmospheric Physics and Electricity**
- **Climate and Climate Change**
- **Weather and Storm Systems**

SYNTHESIS DOCUMENT:

- **Protection of Life and Property**
- **Global Stewardship**
- **Economic Benefits**
- **Education**
- **Enabling Technology**
- **Institutional Relationships**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Recommendations**
 - **Priorities for Action**
-

STUDY MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

**OVERALL BASIC
GUIDANCE**

John A. Dutton

STUDY CHAIR:

Gerald North

STUDY CO-CHAIRS:

**Richard Hallgren
Eugene Rasmussen
Graeme Stephens**

STAFF DIRECTOR:

William Sprigg

A PREVIEW OF THE STUDY

AMS MEETING -- JANUARY 17 - 18, 1993

SYMPOSIUM ON CHALLENGES IN THE ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES

First Session --Opportunities, Challenges, and Imperatives

Overview and Context for Priorities

John A. Dutton

Climate -- Past, Present, Future

Gerald North

Weather and Storm Systems

Ronald McPherson

Atmospheric Dynamics and Modeling

Warren Washington

Atmospheric Physics and Electricity

Graeme Stephens

Atmospheric Chemistry and Air Quality

James Anderson

Scientific Issues with an Emphasis on Social, Environmental, and Economic Implications

PROSPECTUS

PURPOSE	Illuminate opportunities, challenges and imperatives for the atmospheric sciences Provide guidance for strategic decisions and for setting priorities
AUDIENCE	Leaders in science, government, industry, and education; students, teachers, and researchers in atmospheric sciences, climate, and related disciplines
DURATION	3 Years
COST	\$1,100,000
PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS	NRC, AMS, AGU, AAAS

BUDGET -- 3 YEARS

	(\$ K)	
SALARIES AND INDIRECT COSTS		
Sr. and Jr. Staff Officers, Clerical		\$494
TRAVEL		
Steering Committee (1 gp x 10 mbrs x 5 mtgs)	50	
Working Groups (5 x 8 x 5)	200	
Panels:		
Economic Benefits, Education/Demographics, Enabling Technology, Institutional Relationships (4 x 6 x 4)	96	
Plenary Workshop (1 x 40 x 1)	40	386
ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS		85
MEETING EXPENSES		40
CONTRACTS (Consultants, Editor)		20
PRINTING		75
THREE-YEAR TOTAL		1,100
