

07-001457

JOHN ENSIGN
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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2805

April 16, 2007

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The Honorable Carlos M. Gutierrez
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In the past, I have been supportive of funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Regional Climate Center program. This program, currently administered by the National Climatic Data Center, performs vital climate data collection and dissemination activities.

The Regional Climate Centers serve their regions by providing government generated climate data and information to government agencies, the public, and the private sector. These centers are located throughout the nation, including one in Nevada that serves all of the Western United States. Recognizing the value of this program, Congress has provided consistent support for it over the last twenty years. So that they may keep operating in Fiscal Year 2007, the Regional Centers are requesting \$4 million in funding from NOAA's final working budget.

I am sure you will give the Regional Climate Centers' request every kind consideration. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,


JOHN ENSIGN
United States Senator

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THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

May 24, 2007

The Honorable John Ensign
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-2805

Dear Senator Ensign:

Thank you for your letter regarding funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Regional Climate Centers. Your support has been invaluable to NOAA over the years. We agree that NOAA's work in Nevada is vital, and we are pleased to have your continued support for our important programs.

As we execute our Fiscal Year 2007 budget, we strive to balance multiple priorities within a fiscally constrained environment. We intend to sustain NOAA's core capabilities while recognizing limits on discretionary spending. Your request will be given full consideration. We look forward to working with you to advance NOAA's mission to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Nat Wienecke, Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,


Carlos M. Gutierrez

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