



December 23, 2011

Dear Dr. Lubchenco:

On behalf of the Science Advisory Board (SAB), I am very pleased to provide you with the attached report, *Towards Open Weather and Climate Services*. The report was developed by the SAB's Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG), reviewed and accepted by the Board, and now forwarded to you for consideration for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) implementation. The report addresses opportunities for our nation to derive greater value from NOAA's weather and climate information and services. It focuses specifically on a new paradigm that would allow for a significantly richer and deeper engagement of the nation's broad and diverse Weather and Climate Enterprise with NOAA, its data services, and its technology development. The report includes three specific recommendations for action by NOAA that will move the Agency towards the open weather and climate services paradigm envisioned in the report.

The Board received the report and deliberated on its merits at our November 2011 meeting. The SAB was strongly aligned with the intentions and concepts of the report. Formally, the Board has voted to accept the report and transmit it to NOAA for review and response. However, the Board's deliberations recognized many of the challenges identified in the report that NOAA must face in implementing the open weather and climate services paradigm. Therefore, the Board transmits this report to NOAA with the understanding that NOAA will first need to examine the cost, technical, legal, and architectural challenges associated with the implementation of this important concept. This could be done on a case-by-case basis or possibly through pilot projects. The SAB Members also felt strongly that the Academic research community along with the U.S. private sector be considered and engaged in this implementation. The Science Advisory Board is very excited about the prospects and potential of the open weather and climate services paradigm for the Agency and our nation. There appears to be very strong support from within NOAA—and particularly at the National Weather Service—for the report's objectives and an eagerness to identify ways in which the concepts can be implemented. The Board looks forward to the Agency's response and stands ready to provide additional input as may be helpful.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RJB', is positioned above the printed name.

**Raymond J. Ban**

Chair, NOAA Science Advisory Board

Consultant, Weather Industry & Government Partnerships

cc:

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