



# SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

April 18, 2024

Dr. Richard W. Spinrad  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and  
Atmosphere & NOAA Administrator  
Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 6811  
14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Spinrad:

**Subject: Transmittal of the NOAA Science Advisory Board Environmental Information Services Working Group Seventh Annual Report to Congress**

On behalf of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB), I am pleased to transmit to you the SAB Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG) seventh annual *Report to Congress* as mandated by Title IV, Sec. 401(c), of the Weather Research and Forecasting Improvement Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-25, signed 18 April 2017) (Weather Act). The report was presented to and approved by the SAB at the March 2024 SAB Meeting.

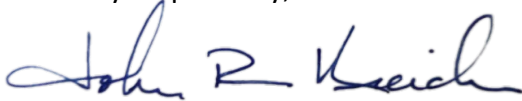
The 2024 EISWG Report to Congress (RtC) begins with statements on the urgency of NOAA weather programs and the critical need for Congressional support. This is followed by sections focusing on: (1) Summaries of the three new EISWG reports with findings and recommendations approved by the SAB in 2023; (2) NOAA progress in adopting recent past EISWG recommendations (as required by the Weather Act); (3) Statements on three new EISWG topic areas that are in various stages of development within the EISWG action plan for 2024; and (4) summary of priority takeaways and recommended next steps.

Over the last year, EISWG continued to engage with external stakeholders and subject matter experts, and also conferred regularly with NOAA senior leadership on their priorities and concerns; all of which help to inform EISWG priorities and activities. This report highlights numerous examples of how NOAA, through annual budget and supplemental funding prioritization, have taken steps to implement recommendations identified by the EISWG and also noted within the PWR report. This progress is positive and promising in response to the changing environmental threat landscape.

The report also emphasizes that Congress must appropriately fund the NWS and move away from the zero-sum game. This urgent attention is necessary to reduce or eliminate interruptions in operations, provide for replacements for aging infrastructure, fully implement projects supported through supplemental funding that have demonstrated value, and expand NOAA's significant societal and economic value, particularly to underserved communities. Moreover, to ensure optimal benefit, NOAA also needs to continually prioritize their efforts in response to changing demands and opportunities.

As stated in the Weather Act, the EISWG is to transmit its annual report to the SAB for submission to the Under Secretary, who then submits it, within 30 days of receipt, to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. The EISWG remains committed to supporting the SAB, NOAA, and Congress in their critical endeavors and looks forward to supporting future requests for information as needed.

Very respectfully,



John R. Kreider

SAB Chair

Cc:	Sarah Kapnick	Carl Gouldman
	Michael Morgan	Martin Yapur
	Karen Hyun	Brad Colman
	Michael Weiss	Scott Glenn
	Kenneth Graham	Casey Stewart
	Cindy Elsenheimer	
	Tamara Battle	

Attachment: NOAA Science Advisory Board Environmental Information Services Working Group Seventh Annual Report to Congress