U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY
Opening Statement

Ranking Member Deborah Ross (D-NC)
of the Subcommittee on Environment

Reauthorizing the Weather Act: Users of Weather Data and Areas for Improvement by Sector

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Thank you, Chairman Miller, for convening this important hearing considering the many users of weather data, and thank you to our witnesses for joining us this morning to share your expertise. I am especially excited that North Carolina's own State Climatologist, Dr. Kathie Dello, is joining us today.

Weather data is critical for informing decisions and protecting American lives and property daily. A wide variety of users benefit from NOAA's weather and climate data. Emergency response agencies inform their decision-making by closely following seasonal outlooks and weather forecasts. Water resource managers rely on accurate forecasts across timescales to guide everything from permitting and negotiations to resource distribution and reservoir management.

Directly relevant to my home state of North Carolina, and many of those represented by this committee, is the critical application of NOAA's data to the agricultural industry. High-quality weather data is paramount for predicting yields and managing water and fertilizer use. Furthermore, global weather and climate data provided by NOAA is used to predict the yields and agricultural market performance of our international partners and adversaries.

Last but certainly not least is the critical application of NOAA's weather and climate data to furthering coastal resilience across the U.S. At the forefront of providing these data is NOAA's National Weather Service. From generating long-term hurricane season outlooks to short-term weather forecasts, the NWS does it all. Mandated by policy, NOAA provides open access weather and climate data and services worldwide. In fact, NOAA's products and services are recognized as being some of the most user-friendly and accessible of any federal agency. Additionally, NOAA promotes and facilitates the flow of these data and services to its many users.

For example, NOAA's Climate Adaptation Partnerships Program facilitates collaborative partnerships with extension networks, state and local governments, and other organizations to help improve and disseminate NOAA data and services to users. Key to these efforts is tailoring information to the needs of communities and addressing inequities. I look forward to hearing

about Dr. Dello's experiences given her wealth of knowledge working with constituents and data users across sectors while developing and leading both Oregon's and North Carolina's CAP programs.

In short, NOAA's contributions to providing weather and climate data and services worldwide cannot be understated. As each user tackles unique problems that vary in scope and application, it is critical that the vast needs of the users of public data are considered. With worsening climate change and weather events looming, ensuring quality data is available to its many users is paramount to protecting the American people.

I am eager to hear from our witnesses today on their experiences using NOAA's climate and weather data and how Congress can support the improvement of its quality, quantity, and availability.

Thank you, and I yield back.