

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 6093

**OFFERED BY MR. STRONG OF ALABAMA
and Ms. Ross of North Carolina**

Add at the end of title II the following:

1 **SEC. 209. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WORKFORCE.**

2 (a) **HIRING.**—The Director of the National Weather
3 Service shall annually submit to the Under Secretary and
4 Congress an assessment of the milestones, timelines, and
5 service level expectations required for the expeditious hir-
6 ing and timely on-boarding of employees of the National
7 Weather Service. Each such assessment may include the
8 following:

9 (1) Recommendations to outsource hiring to
10 any entity other than the National Weather Service
11 in order to meet such milestones, timelines, and
12 service level expectations.

13 (2) Determinations of the number of staff and
14 designated positions required at each forecasting of-
15 fice to provide services to protect lives and property
16 in the geographic region of responsibility.

17 (b) **HEALTH AND MORALE ASSESSMENT.**—The Di-
18 rector of the National Weather Service shall contract or
19 continue to partner with an entity other than the National
20 Weather Service to conduct an assessment of medical im-

1 pacts, including stress and long-term health impacts, on
2 National Weather Service employees related to required
3 rotating shift work. Such assessment may include options
4 for mitigating such impacts on employees and rec-
5 ommendations for improving benefits related to required
6 rotating shift work.

7 (c) DESIGNATION OF SERVICE HYDROLOGIST.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National
9 Weather Service may designate at least one service
10 hydrologist at each Weather Forecast Office of the
11 National Weather Service.

12 (2) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section may
13 be construed to authorize or require a change in the
14 authorized number of full time equivalent employees
15 of the National Weather Service or otherwise result
16 in the employment of any additional employees.

17 (3) PERFORMANCE BY OTHER EMPLOYEES.—
18 Notwithstanding paragraphs (4) and (5), the Direc-
19 tor of the National Weather Service may assign the
20 performance of the responsibilities described in this
21 subsection to such other staff of the National
22 Weather Service as the Director considers appro-
23 priate

24 (4) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In order to increase
25 impact-based decision support services, each service

1 coordination hydrologist designated under paragraph
2 (1) shall, with respect to hydrology, carry out the
3 following:

4 (A) Be responsible for providing service to
5 the geographic area of responsibility covered by
6 the Weather Forecast Office at which the serv-
7 ice coordination hydrologist is employed to help
8 ensure that users of products and services of
9 the National Weather Service can respond ef-
10 fectively to improve outcomes from flood events.

11 (B) Liaise with users of products and serv-
12 ices of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
13 Administration, such as emergency managers,
14 the public, academia, media outlets, users in the
15 hydropower, transportation, recreation, and ag-
16 ricultural communities, and forestry, land, fish-
17 eries, and water management interests, to
18 evaluate the adequacy and usefulness of the
19 products and services referred to in subpara-
20 graph (A), including extended range streamflow
21 forecasts, water supply forecasts, drought out-
22 looks, flood inundation mapping, coastal inun-
23 dation, and flood warnings.

24 (C) Collaborate with the National Water
25 Center, River Forecast Centers, other Weather

1 Forecast Offices, the National Integrate
2 Drought Information System, Administration
3 offices, and Federal, State, local, and Tribal
4 government agencies, as the Director considers
5 appropriate, in developing, proposing, and im-
6 plementing plans to develop, modify, or tailor
7 such products and services to improve the use-
8 fulness of such products and services.

9 (D) Engage in interagency partnerships
10 with Federal, State, local, and Tribal govern-
11 ment agencies to explore the use of forecast-in-
12 formed reservoir operations to reduce flood risk
13 and inform decisions related to water resources
14 management.

15 (E) Ensure the maintenance and accuracy
16 of flooding and water resource management
17 partner call lists, appropriate office hydrologic
18 service policy or procedures, and other hydro-
19 logic information or dissemination methodolo-
20 gies or strategies.

21 (F) Work closely with Federal, State, local,
22 and Tribal emergency and floodplain manage-
23 ment agencies, and other agencies relating to
24 disaster management, to ensure a planned, co-

1 ordinated, and effective preparedness and re-
2 sponse effort.

3 (5) ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—A service
4 coordination hydrologist designated under this sub-
5 section may, with respect to hydrology—

6 (A) work with a State agency to develop
7 plans for promoting more effective use of prod-
8 ucts and services of the National Weather Serv-
9 ice throughout the State concerned;

10 (B) identify priority community prepared-
11 ness objectives;

12 (C) develop plans to carry out the respon-
13 sibilities described in paragraph (4); and

14 (D) conduct flooding event preparedness
15 planning and citizen education efforts with and
16 through various State, local, and Tribal govern-
17 ment agencies and other disaster management-
18 related organizations.

