

COMMITTEE ON
**SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY**
CHAIRMAN LAMAR SMITH



For Immediate Release
June 28, 2013

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**Statement of Research and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Larry Bucshon (R-Ind.)
Markup of H.R. 1786, *National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2013***

Chairman Bucshon: I am pleased to call the markup this morning for consideration of H.R. 1786, the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2013 introduced by our colleague Congressman Randy Neugebauer.

As we have tragically witnessed this year, windstorms take American lives, destroy homes and businesses, and cause billions of dollars of damage around the United States. The effects of these disasters can reverberate for years.

Millions of Americans live in areas vulnerable to damaging hurricanes, tornadoes, and other windstorms. As populations continue to grow in these areas, our vulnerability will only increase.

The legislation we are marking up today will reauthorize the activities of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (or NWIRP, “N-whirp”). NWIRP focuses on mitigating damage from wind-related hazards through research designed to help us better understand their behavior and impacts.

Earlier this month, our Subcommittee held a hearing examining how the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Federal Emergency Management Administration, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration conduct important research and development activities aimed to reduce the risk and impact of severe windstorms under the auspices of the NWIRP program.

This R&D improves model building codes, voluntary standards, and construction practices for buildings and lifelines; fundamental research on the impact of severe windstorms on buildings and infrastructure; atmospheric science research and data collection; and risk assessment tools and mitigation techniques.

The original authorization for NWIRP expired in 2008. Although some work in these agencies has continued, it is difficult to determine the total spending on current wind-hazard reduction measures across these agencies. H.R. 1786 improves public transparency for how much money is being spent on windstorm research, establishes NIST as the lead agency for the program, and improves coordination and planning of agency activities in a fiscally responsible manner.

I want to thank Randy Neugebauer for his focus on this valuable research area, and I look forward to moving forward on this legislation.