

**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**HEARING**

**H.R. 906, Global Change Research and Data Management Act of 2007**

May 3, 2007

**Statement of Subcommittee on Energy & Environment Ranking Member Bob Inglis  
(SC-4)**

Good afternoon. Thank you, Ms. Chairwoman, for holding this hearing on ways we might improve our climate science programs to make local users a part of the process.

Our current climate science programs at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and other agencies have made great gains in deepening our understanding of global change—from what is causing it to how our country and others might be affected. The sheer volume of data calls for an intelligent data management system, designed to fulfill the needs of its users. The program must meet the additional challenge of presenting the data in a relevant form to users that have non-scientific backgrounds, such as state and local governments.

In South Carolina, I've been hearing from fisherman and hunters who are concerned about fish and animal population changes that could threaten local eco-tourism businesses. South Carolina's tourism industry, the largest economic generator in the state, will need more information about changes to the coast as they plan for the future. These folks will also need the ability to let the climate programs know what's useful and where they require additional information.

I believe we can find a bipartisan consensus to take action on improving our climate science programs. This issue has the potential to affect all of us and we must ensure that local users are informed and have a say in the process to get the information they need.

I'm pleased that Dr. James Mahoney could be with us today. Dr. Mahoney is the former Director of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program and former Deputy Administrator for NOAA. His academic and professional experience makes him a valuable addition to this panel. I'm encouraged by the constructive feedback in his written testimony, and I thank him for coming to share his insight.

Thank you again for holding this hearing, Ms. Chairwoman, and I look forward to hearing from all of our distinguished witnesses as to how we can most effectively structure our climate science programs.