

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



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**Statement of Environment Subcommittee Chairman Chris Stewart (R-Utah)  
Markup of H.R. 2413, The Weather Forecasting Improvement Act of 2013**

**Chairman Stewart:** Good morning and welcome to this morning's Environment Subcommittee markup of H.R. 2413, The Weather Forecasting Improvement Act of 2013, introduced by our subcommittee's Vice-chairman, Jim Bridenstine, and I serve as a proud co-sponsor.

The legislation before us today prioritizes protection of public safety and forward-looking weather research, improves procurement of observing system data from space, air, and land, and opens up NOAA's process to encourage private sector weather solutions. The legislation is a long-term down payment to upgrade our weather prediction system that has in some cases has fallen behind international standards.

This markup is a result of the subcommittee's hard work in both the 112th and 113th Congresses. This year we have had two legislative hearings on restoring U.S. leadership in weather forecasting, where expert witnesses provided testimony on the text of Mr. Bridenstine's legislation, and informed members of the need for improved weather forecasting and the potential for improved research and technology transition efforts.

Our efforts this Congress build on a similarly deep record established in the 112th Congress, where the committee explored these issues through multiple hearings and oversight activities. Collectively, this work helped to inform the committee of NOAA's weather forecasting challenges and opportunities related to programmatic management, research prioritization, and commercial data acquisition.

I am pleased that the bill before us today reflects improvement from its original discussion draft to include recommendations from witness testimony, which expands resources available to achieve the objective of protecting lives and property through weather research and improved forecasting.

I am also pleased to have been able to work with Ranking Member Bonamici throughout this process, including by holding a second hearing where we received valuable input from both NOAA and outside witnesses. This input has led to an improved work product and changes that were included in the introduced bill as well as the manager's amendment that I will offer today. We may not agree on every detail, but I we certainly agree that improved weather forecasting is an important national priority, so I hope we can continue this cooperative effort today and through our full committee markup.

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