

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3349

To require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to identify a consistent, Federal set of best available forward-looking meteorological information and to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to convene an effort to make such set available, with advice and technical assistance, to standards-developing organizations, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2020

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, and Ms. SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to identify a consistent, Federal set of best available forward-looking meteorological information and to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to convene an effort to make such set available, with advice and technical assistance, to standards-developing organizations, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Built to Last Act of  
3 2020”.

4 **SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF CON-**  
5 **SISTENT, FEDERAL SET OF BEST AVAILABLE**  
6 **FORWARD-LOOKING METEOROLOGICAL IN-**  
7 **FORMATION.**

8       (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

9           (1) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means  
10 the Director of the National Institute of Standards  
11 and Technology.

12           (2) **UNDER SECRETARY.**—The term “Under  
13 Secretary” means the Under Secretary of Commerce  
14 for Oceans and Atmosphere.

15           (3) **EXTREME WEATHER.**—The term “extreme  
16 weather” includes observed or anticipated severe and  
17 unseasonable atmospheric conditions, including  
18 drought, heavy precipitation, hurricanes, tornadoes  
19 and other windstorms (including derechos), extreme  
20 heat, extreme cold, flooding, sustained temperatures  
21 or precipitation that deviate substantially from his-  
22 torical averages, and any other weather event that  
23 the Under Secretary determines qualifies as extreme  
24 weather.

25           (4) **OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL TRENDS.**—The  
26 term “other environmental trends” means wildfires,

1 coastal flooding, inland flooding, land subsidence,  
2 rising sea levels, and any other challenges relating to  
3 changes in environmental systems over time that the  
4 Under Secretary determines qualify as environ-  
5 mental challenges other than extreme weather.

6 (5) MITIGATION FRAMEWORK LEADERSHIP  
7 GROUP.—The term “Mitigation Framework Leader-  
8 ship Group” means the Mitigation Framework Lead-  
9 ership Group established pursuant to the Post-  
10 Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of  
11 2006 (Public Law 109–295; 6 U.S.C. 701 note), or  
12 successor group.

13 (6) UNITED STATES GLOBAL CHANGE RE-  
14 SEARCH PROGRAM.—The term “United States Glob-  
15 al Change Research Program” means the United  
16 States Global Change Research Program established  
17 under section 103 of the Global Change Research  
18 Act of 1990 (15 U.S.C. 2933).

19 (7) LONG-TERM.—The term “long-term” shall  
20 have such meaning as the Director, in consultation  
21 with the Under Secretary, considers appropriate for  
22 purposes of this section.

23 (b) IDENTIFICATION OF CONSISTENT, FEDERAL SET  
24 OF BEST AVAILABLE METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary shall  
 2           identify and support research that enables, a con-  
 3           sistent, Federal set of forward-looking long-term me-  
 4           teorological information that—

5                   (A) models future extreme weather events,  
 6                   other environmental trends, projections, and  
 7                   up-to-date observations; and

8                   (B) is suitable for use under subsection  
 9           (c).

10           (2) MESOSCALE METEOROLOGICAL INFORMA-  
 11           TION.—When the Under Secretary determines ap-  
 12           propriate or upon request of the Director, the Under  
 13           Secretary shall provide the Director with mesoscale  
 14           meteorological information that is suitable for use  
 15           under subsection (c).

16           (c) ADVICE, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND DISSEMI-  
 17           NATION.—

18           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall, in con-  
 19           sultation with the Under Secretary—

20                   (A) make available to the public informa-  
 21                   tion identified under subsection (b);

22                   (B) identify Federal and non-Federal ef-  
 23                   forts to develop and adopt standards, building  
 24                   codes, and voluntary certifications; and

1 (C) using the best available, consistent,  
2 Federal set of forward-looking long-term mete-  
3 orological information identified under sub-  
4 section (b)—

5 (i) advise and provide technical assist-  
6 ance to organizations that develop stand-  
7 ards, model building codes, or voluntary  
8 certifications in order for such organiza-  
9 tions to appropriately incorporate forward-  
10 looking long-term meteorological informa-  
11 tion into such standards, building codes,  
12 and voluntary certifications; and

13 (ii) take appropriate steps to make in-  
14 formation identified under subsection (b)  
15 available to the entities described in clause  
16 (i) developing such standards, model build-  
17 ing codes, and voluntary certifications.

18 (2) REQUIREMENT.—The Director shall carry  
19 out paragraph (1) through each of the following:

20 (A) The Fire Research Center, established  
21 under section 16 of the Act entitled “An Act to  
22 establish the National Bureau of Standards”,  
23 approved March 3, 1901 (15 U.S.C. 278f).

24 (B) The National Windstorm Impact Re-  
25 duction Program, established under section 204

1           of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction  
2           Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15703).

3           (C) Such other statutory authorities as the  
4           Director considers appropriate.

5       (d) WORKING GROUP.—In order to identify and sup-  
6 port research that enable information as required under  
7 subsection (b), the Director of the Office of Science and  
8 Technology Policy, in coordination with the United States  
9 Global Change Research Program and the Mitigation  
10 Framework Leadership Group, shall designate a working  
11 group consisting of representatives from such Federal  
12 agencies as the Director of the Office of Science and Tech-  
13 nology Policy considers appropriate.

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