

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4146

To establish a comprehensive research program aimed at understanding and predicting the natural processes that lead to the formation of tornadoes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 2, 2004

Mr. CRAMER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Science

A BILL

To establish a comprehensive research program aimed at understanding and predicting the natural processes that lead to the formation of tornadoes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Tornado Research Act
5 of 2004”.

6 **SEC. 2. TORNADO RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary
8 of Commerce shall establish a tornado research program
9 within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
10 tion, to be carried out in coordination with the National

1 Weather Service, the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
2 ministration, the National Science Foundation, and any
3 other appropriate Federal agencies.

4 (b) PROGRAM DUTIES.—The tornado research pro-
5 gram established pursuant to subsection (a) shall—

6 (1) include research aimed at understanding
7 and predicting the natural processes that lead to the
8 formation of tornadoes;

9 (2) identify an array of factors that indicate the
10 formation of tornadoes;

11 (3) promote the incorporation of the results of
12 the research conducted under the program into the
13 methods used by meteorologists to predict the time
14 and location of the formation of tornadoes;

15 (4) provide resources and promote attention to
16 tornado research areas with the greatest potential
17 for improving the understanding of the formation of
18 tornadoes;

19 (5) maximize the effectiveness of the program
20 by encouraging collaborative efforts by operational
21 and research communities in academia and the Fed-
22 eral Government; and

23 (6) provide for the awarding of competitive re-
24 search grants to, and the entering into of coopera-
25 tive agreements with, institutions of higher edu-

1 cation and other research institutions to conduct
2 peer-reviewed research that may improve the fore-
3 cast and identification of tornadoes.

4 **SEC. 3. DEFINITION.**

5 For purposes of this Act, the term “institution of
6 higher education” has the meaning given to that term in
7 section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
8 U.S.C. 1001).

9 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
11 retary of Commerce for the purpose of carrying out this
12 Act—

13 (1) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2005;

14 (2) \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2006, of which at
15 least 50 percent shall be for the competitive research
16 grants and cooperative agreements described in sec-
17 tion 2(b)(6); and

18 (3) \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007
19 and 2008, of which at least 50 percent each fiscal
20 year shall be for the competitive research grants and
21 cooperative agreements described in section 2(b)(6).

○