

Support for the National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act (NCARS)

“Members of the American Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP) applaud at the introduction of the National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act (NCARS). If Congress enacts this legislation, the U.S. will move from relying on a series of individual agency activities authorized through executive action alone to a stable, long-term, coherent national strategy to ensure climate change preparedness. NCARS is particularly promising because: 1) it builds on existing national and sub-national adaptation and resilience efforts and 2) the legislation itself is adaptive. ASAP wishes to call particular attention to the bill’s requirement to develop not only a national adaptation strategy but also an implementation plan and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, mechanisms to ensure that justice and equity remain at the center of national action under this legislation, and the need to ensure adequate appropriations. Congress should swiftly pass this bill and achieve an enormous step forward in preparing the U.S. for the impacts of climate change.” — **American Society of Adaptation Professionals**

“While Congress works to cut climate pollution, it is also imperative that we prepare for the impacts we can no longer avoid more intense hurricanes, extreme rainfall and ruinous floods, prolonged drought, and killer wildfires, and more. These climate-fueled disasters are accelerating across the country, causing significant harm to our safety, property, and environment – particularly for frontline communities impacted first and worst by climate disasters. Sens. Coons and Murkowski and Reps. Peters and Salazar understand these risks and are setting up the right governance framework to protect communities through the bipartisan National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act. The Act takes a comprehensive whole of-government approach to understand and address climate risks with valuable input from states, local governments, tribes, NGOs, businesses and others.” — **Elizabeth Gore, Senior Vice President for Political Affairs at Environmental Defense Fund**

“The business community supports elevating resilience in the policy dialogue and commends Senator Coons and Representative Peters for introducing the bipartisan National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act. The Chamber has established resilience principles that

include a national strategy on resilience and for the establishment of a chief resilience officer. We look forward to working with policymakers to help advance these principles.” — **Marty Durbin, Senior Vice President for Policy at U.S. Chamber of Commerce.**

“The Nature Conservancy welcomes and appreciates Senator Coons’ bipartisan proposal to enact a whole-of-government approach to addressing the impacts of climate change. The country is already experiencing increasingly frequent and severe storms, wildfires, and heatwaves, all driven by a warming climate. Delaware’s coasts and low-lying urban areas are particularly vulnerable to rising waters and heavier rains. Mitigating these impacts requires the coordination of federal agencies and partnerships with state, local and tribal entities working to advance effective, resilient solutions. It also requires special attention to the most vulnerable communities that often have few resources to address these daunting challenges. We applaud the bipartisan bill’s inclusion of natural climate solutions and the emphasis it places on resiliency and adaption. We look forward to working with Senator Coons and fellow sponsors to advance this proposal.”

— **Lori Brennan, executive director of The Nature Conservancy Delaware and Pennsylvania Chapter**

“Climate change is making flooding more common and costly, and that shouldn’t be ignored. The proposed bipartisan National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act would help position the United States as a global leader in supporting community adaptation to the effects of climate change. With its nationwide vision for planning and policy, this proposal would make the country more resilient and save taxpayers billions in recovery costs.” — **Laura Lightbody, project director of The Pew Charitable Trusts’ flood-prepared communities initiative**

“There is not a moment to lose - we need this national climate resilience legislation right now. Every community in the US is wrestling with the human and economic impacts of climate change. We fully support the National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act and applaud Senators Coons and Murkowski and their Senate co-sponsors for this comprehensive, bipartisan legislation.” — **Kathy Baughman McLeod, SVP and Director of the Adrienne Arsht Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center at the Atlantic Council**

“As the nation is pummeled by floods, heat waves, droughts, and other climate-driven

disasters, we need a coordinated all-hands-on-deck approach to climate adaptation and resilience. By putting in place a Federal Chief Resilience Officer and mandating a national strategy, this important legislation will help us prepare for the impacts of our climate crisis.”

— **Rob Moore, director of the Water & Climate team at Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)**

“We applaud Senator Coons and Congressman Peters for the "National Climate and Adaptation Resilience Strategy Act", especially at a time when agility and innovation from our country's leadership is paramount to addressing the climate crisis. The bill creates a Chief Resilience Officer role in the White House to coordinate strategies across agencies and create a roadmap to address acute shocks and daily stressors from the growing threat of climate change.

Addressing these threats requires a whole-of-government approach, and the Chief Resilience Officer in the White House is vital to ensuring coordination and collective action. This bill makes it possible to have intentional, proactive conversations across government and within communities for a stronger, more resilient future.” — **Ranjani Prabhakar, Senior Legislative Representative at Earthjustice**

“With communities across the country facing more extreme weather and flooding, the federal government needs a robust strategy to tackle these challenges head on. American Flood Coalition Action applauds bipartisan sponsors of the National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act for their whole-of-government approach to resilience and adaptation. On top of creating a much-needed Chief Resilience Officer position in the White House, this proposal would streamline coordination across federal agencies and ensure vulnerable communities have the resources they need to adapt and thrive.” — **Melissa Roberts, Executive Director, American Flood Coalition Action**

“From stronger hurricanes to lengthy heatwaves, frontline communities across the United States are already feeling the effects of climate change. Reducing vulnerabilities in these communities by providing resources and guidance for climate resilience should be a primary focus of the federal climate strategy. The American Conservation Coalition thanks Senator Coons and Senator Murkowski for highlighting and working to address this important issue.”

— **Quill Robinson, Vice President of Government Affairs at American Conservation Coalition**

“The National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act (NCARS) will elevate leadership on climate resilience within the federal government and create a strategic vision for agencies to help communities across the country build resilience. Critically, this strategy will be guided by input from non-federal partners, including state, local, and tribal leaders, and the private sector – many of whom are already experiencing the direct impacts of climate change and have the best understanding of local risks and needs and effective solutions. A national resilience strategy is a necessary precursor to the federal government’s comprehensive and coordinated response to damaging climate impacts. This legislation also aligns with a set of policy recommendations for Congress we developed in close consultation with states, cities, businesses, and other stakeholders. We applaud Senators Coons and Murkowski and Representatives Peters and Salazar, and their staff for their work to focus federal coordination on resilience, which is critical to address the impacts that communities are already experiencing from more intense and frequent climate-related extreme weather events and will continue to endure without significant leadership on climate resilience and reductions in climate pollution.” — **Nat Keohane President, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES)**

“Climate hazards threaten the health, safety, housing, and economic vitality of communities across the nation. A whole-of-government approach, including improved interagency coordination, is necessary to maximize the impact of finite federal resources and make climate adaptation and resilience a top national priority. We commend Sens. Chris Coons (D-Del.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Reps. Scott Peters (D-Calif.) and María Salazar (R-Fla.) for their leadership on these important issues.” — **Michele Stockwell, Executive Director of Bipartisan Policy Center Action**

“The NCARS Act represents a strategic approach to coordinating numerous federal programs with local government, non-governmental organizations, academics, and the private sector. This legislation offers the opportunity to accelerate federal program delivery of priority adaption or resilience investments to and across the state, territorial, and tribal jurisdictions. The NCARS Act

will deliver in many ways what states with the engineering industry have accomplished locally but do so nationally,” **Lynn Schloesser, Director - Water, Energy and Environment at American Council of Engineering Companies**

“In the past, we have always discussed responding to disasters,” **said Craig Fugate, former FEMA Administrator.** “What we really need to do is talk about proactive resilience and reducing risk for our communities. The National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act is a critical step forward in creating infrastructure that is more resilient to ever increasing disasters.”

“At Team Rubicon, we work with communities across the country and around the world that are impacted by the increasing number of natural disasters. We applaud Senators Coons and Murkowski and Representatives Peters and Salazar, along with the bipartisan cosponsors, for recognizing the need for the National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act (NCARS). NCARS will ensure federal agencies across the U.S. government are unified and coordinated in climate adaptation and resilience strategies to ensure that the country is more resilient in the future. Further, it would create a working group for non-federal partners that mitigate and respond to climate change's impacts in the most vulnerable communities. NCARS will allow organizations like Team Rubicon to share their observations and innovative solutions for addressing the challenges we see in communities on the ground every day.” – **David Burke, Chief Programs Officer, Team Rubicon**