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## **Priorities for a New Decade: Weather Water, and Climate**

The science of weather, water, and climate (WWC) informs and guides decisions affecting virtually every social and economic sector underlying modern society. WWC science is foundational to meeting basic human needs including access to food, water, shelter, energy, health, safety, and security. At the same time, opportunities for public benefits deriving from advances in weather, water, and climate science are large and increasing dramatically. When both natural and social scientists are engaged in developing and applying WWC research, the public benefits are maximized.

The attached statement of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) highlights priorities for the coming decade.

Effective leadership will be needed at all levels of government to ensure these benefits are realized. Appointing highly capable, well-qualified, and diverse leaders to top WWC policy positions in the Federal government and state agencies is essential. These individuals should work to integrate WWC research and services across government, and should proactively engage the academic and private sectors.

Leaders should recognize that effective policy is underpinned by currently accepted science even as final choices are also informed by other interests, preferences, values, and opinions. Science provides a powerful foundation of information that can promote shared understanding and improve the outcome of decision-making.

Leaders should strive to ensure accurate descriptions of science in public discussions to serve the interests of the American people. Misrepresentation of science that has been well-vetted is a disservice. The American Meteorological Society calls on all candidates for public office, all elected policymakers, and all officials appointed to public office to strive for accuracy when discussing science and to pursue science-informed policies. The AMS stands ready to support them.

Mary M. Glackin  
AMS President