

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2296

To upgrade the communications service used by the National Weather Service,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 2025

Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. MCBRIDE, Ms. ROSS, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, and Mr. MOSKOWITZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To upgrade the communications service used by the National
Weather Service, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Weather
5 Service Communications Improvement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS.**

7 (a) SYSTEM UPGRADE.—The Director of the Na-
8 tional Weather Service shall improve the instant mes-

1 saging service used by personnel of the National Weather
2 Service by implementing, not later than October 1, 2027,
3 a commercial off-the-shelf communications solution that
4 replaces the instant messaging service commonly referred
5 to as “NWSSchat”.

6 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The communications solution
7 implemented under subsection (a) shall—

8 (1) be hosted on the public cloud; and

9 (2) satisfy requirements set forth by the Direc-
10 tor of the National Weather Service to ensure such
11 solution—

12 (A) best accommodates future growth;

13 (B) performs successfully with increased
14 numbers of users;

15 (C) is easy to use for the majority of users;

16 and

17 (D) is similar to systems already in com-
18 mercial use.

19 (c) FUNDING.—From amounts made available for
20 Operations, Research, and Facilities, the Director of the
21 National Weather Service shall allocate up to \$3,000,000
22 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029 to carry out
23 subsection (a).

24 (d) LIMITATION ON FUNDING.—Amounts made avail-
25 able to carry out subsection (a) shall be derived from

- 1 amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the
- 2 National Weather Service.

