



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *111th* CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24th, 2010

No. 47

HON. JARED POLIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2010

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the National Center for Atmospheric Research, or as we simply call it back home in Boulder, NCAR on the occasion of their 50th year conducting the climate and weather research that has become an icon of the American spirit of research and a vital part of all of our daily lives.

In the 1950s, the nation's farmers, the rapidly growing airlines, our armed forces, and other sectors of our industrial economy needed better weather forecasts. Pollution of the atmosphere was becoming a serious problem in urban areas. Cloud-seeding experiments suggested that it might someday be possible to control certain kinds of weather. But the U.S. atmospheric research community was not adequately meeting these challenges.

In 1956, Detlev Bronk, president of the National Academy of Sciences, appointed a committee of distinguished scientists from several disciplines and instructed them to "consider and recommend means by which to increase our understanding and control of the atmosphere." Solar physicist Walter Orr Roberts at the University of Colorado was appointed its president and the National Center for Atmospheric Research was built atop a spectacular Mesa in Boulder, where it remains today.

In addition to being home to the most advanced weather and climate change research in the world, it's also an iconic part of the Boulder Community and hosts more than 50,000 visitors every year. For those Woody Allen fans out there, the building was featured in the movie "Sleeper." Designed by I.M. Pei, this building is a focal point of Boulder's community. A breathtaking drive takes you to the facility, which houses an interactive weather and climate museum. The staff offers tours for the public to see first-hand the tools used to fight climate and change as well as predict whether you will need an umbrella over the weekend.

I am incredibly proud and honored to represent this facility and everything it stands for in Congress. In this 50th year, I ask my colleagues to continue to support President Obama's ambitious levels of funding for the National Science Foundation and NCAR. I invite everyone to visit Boulder and this facility, and experience what the symbiosis of government, academia, and private ingenuity can do on a global and local level.

My district—even in this economy—continues to have low unemployment and a high standard of living. The resilience of Colorado's Second Congressional district is a direct result of the talents of our people, the inspiration of our natural surroundings, and the fact that institutions such as NCAR have and will continue to yield Nobel laureates, offer the nation and the world cutting edge research with practical applications, and, as a result, continue to make Boulder the world headquarters for climate and weather research.

Congratulations to NCAR and to the scientists—my constituents—who carry on this important mission.