

March 12, 2008

Members of Congress:


On behalf of the National Science and Technology Council, the U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) is pleased to transmit to the President and the Congress this Synthesis and Assessment Product (SAP), *Impacts of Climate Change and Variability on Transportation Systems and Infrastructure: Gulf Coast Study, Phase I*. This is part of a series of 21 SAPs produced by the CCSP aimed at providing current assessments of climate change science to inform public debate, policy, and operational decisions. These reports are also intended to help the CCSP develop future program research priorities. This SAP is issued pursuant to Section 106 of the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-606).

The CCSP's guiding vision is to provide the Nation and the global community with the science-based knowledge needed to manage the risks and capture the opportunities associated with climate and related environmental changes. The SAPs are important steps toward achieving that vision and help to translate the CCSP's extensive observational and research database into informational tools that directly address key questions being asked of the research community.

This SAP provides background on the potential for climate change to affect the transportation system in the United States with a special emphasis on the Central Gulf Coast region. It was developed with broad scientific input and in accordance with the Guidelines for Producing CCSP SAPs, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Information Quality Act, Section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-554), and the guidelines issued by the Department of Transportation pursuant to Section 515.


We commend the report's authors for both the thorough nature of their work and their adherence to an inclusive review process.

Sincerely,



Carlos M. Gutierrez
Secretary of Commerce

Chair, Committee on
Climate Change Science
and Technology Integration



Samuel W. Bodman
Secretary of Energy

Vice Chair, Committee on
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