

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20502

March 11, 2016

Dear House and Senate Appropriations Committees,

This letter is submitted to report to the Committees on details on fiscal year (FY) 2014 and 2015 funding used to support certain U.S. Federal government activities, pursuant to report language accompanying the FY 2016 appropriation for the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) provided in Public Law 114-113 [Division B of the Explanatory Statement for the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016].

*“The Office of Science and Technology Policy shall submit a report no later than 90 days after enactment of this Act detailing fiscal year 2014 and 2015 funding under this Act used in support of the U.S. Global Climate Research Program National Climate Assessment; the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth Assessment Report; the United Nation's Agenda 21 sustainable development plan; and the May 2013 Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis under Executive Order 12866. This report shall also include the specific authorization for each agency that enables participation in each of the activities listed above.”*

The U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) was established by Presidential Initiative in 1989 and mandated by Congress in the Global Change Research Act (GCRA) of 1990 (Public Law 101-606 (11/16/90) 15 US Code Chapter 56A, Subchapter I, § 2931 - 2938) to develop and coordinate “a comprehensive and integrated United States research program which will assist the Nation and the world to understand, assess, predict, and respond to human-induced and natural processes of global change.”

The Program has a number of requirements under this legal mandate that it is obligated to fulfill. The requirements relevant to this expenditures report fall under International Cooperation and Scientific Assessment. Specifically, to:

- Cooperate with the Secretary of State in: (i) providing representation at international meetings and conferences on global change research in which the United States participates; and (ii) coordinating the Federal activities of the United States with programs of other nations and with international global change research activities.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S. Code § 2932

- On a periodic basis (not less frequently than every 4 years), prepare and submit to the President and the Congress an assessment which: (i) integrates, evaluates, and interprets the findings of the Program and discusses the scientific uncertainties associated with such findings; (ii) analyzes the effects of global change on the natural environment, agriculture, energy production and use, land and water resources, transportation, human health and welfare, human social systems, and biological diversity; (iii) analyzes current trends in global change, both human-induced and natural, and projects major trends for the subsequent 25 to 100 years.<sup>2</sup>

**National Climate Assessment (NCA)**

Pursuant to the GCRA language above, USGCRP is required to produce a comprehensive, quadrennial assessment of observed and projected future climate changes and associated impacts on all U.S. regions and key socioeconomic sectors. The third National Climate Assessment (NCA) was released in May 2014. Funding was required to support core NCA-related activities in the USGCRP National Coordination Office, including staff time, author and Federal Advisory Committee support, and a Technical Support Unit (TSU), hosted by the Department of Commerce’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (DOC/NOAA), to support all aspects of report development and production. Subsequent to the report release, preparations for the fourth National Climate Assessment began, and continued in FY 2015.

Support in FY 2014 and FY 2015 for these two functions, across the three USCGRP-participating agencies funded in the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (the Department of Commerce (DOC), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)), totaled approximately \$9.63 million, distributed as follows (in thousands of dollars (K)):

	<u>FY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>
NASA	\$335K	\$735K
NSF	\$100K	\$224K
DOC	\$4096K	\$4145K
Total	\$4531K	\$5103K

**Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**

The Department of State, as part of the overall U.S. Government participation in the IPCC 5th Assessment Report (AR5) process under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate

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<sup>2</sup> 15 U.S. Code § 2936.

Change (UNFCCC), and according to the requirements in the GCRA summarized above, has asked USGCRP to provide IPCC-related funding in two areas:

- Funding the Technical Support Unit (TSU) for IPCC Working Group II, led by a U.S. Co-Chair, to support the production of the AR5 Working Group II report, released in 2014.
- Supporting the travel of non-Federal U.S. participating scientists to IPCC meetings over the course of the AR5 assessment cycle

Support in FY 2014 and FY 2015 for these two functions, across the three USCGRP-participating agencies funded in the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (the Department of Commerce (DOC), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)), totaled approximately \$2.32 million, distributed as follows (in thousands of dollars (K)):

	<u>FY14 TSU</u>	<u>FY14 Travel</u>	<u>FY15 TSU</u>	<u>FY15 Travel</u>
NASA	\$745K	\$150K	\$452K	\$108K
NSF	\$223K	\$45K	\$135K	\$32K
DOC	\$219K	\$44K	\$132K	\$31K
Total	\$1187K	\$239K	\$719K	\$171K

### **United Nations' Agenda 21 sustainable development report**

OSTP can find no record of Federal funds in FY 2014 and 2015 being used to support Federal contributions to a United Nations Agenda 21 sustainable development report.

### **May 2013 Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis under Executive Order 12866**

The *Technical Support Document: Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis Under Executive Order 12866*<sup>3</sup> was published in May 2013 and was produced by the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Carbon convened by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Council of Economic Advisers (CEA). The Department of Commerce (DOC) and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) are the two members of the Working Group that are funded by the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. OSTP can find no record of Federal funds in FY 2014 and

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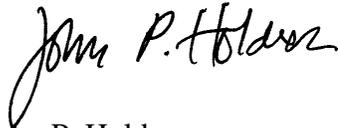
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[https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/inforeg/social\\_cost\\_of\\_carbon\\_for\\_ria\\_2013\\_update.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/inforeg/social_cost_of_carbon_for_ria_2013_update.pdf)

2015 being used for the preparation of this report. The authority for agency participation in preparing this report can be found in Executive Order 12866 of 1993.<sup>4</sup>

Thank you for your interest in the work of the U.S. Global Change Research Program and related activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Holdren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John P. Holdren

Director and

Assistant to the President for Science and Technology

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/pdf/12866.pdf>. The Executive Order requires Federal agencies “to assess both the costs and the benefits of the intended regulation and, recognizing that some costs and benefits are difficult to quantify, propose or adopt a regulation only upon a reasoned determination that the benefits of the intended regulation justify its costs.”