

**OPENING STATEMENT OF  
THE HONORABLE VERNON J. EHLERS  
RANKING MEMBER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND SCIENCE EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

*The State of Hurricane Research and H.R. 2407,  
The National Hurricane Research Initiative Act of 2007*

June 26, 2008  
10:00am-12:00pm  
2318 Rayburn House Office Building

Recent history has proven that the United States needs to be better prepared for hurricanes. The impacts of these storms may never be eliminated, but the most deleterious impacts could be mitigated by improved prediction, standards, infrastructure and communication.

I understand that our federal research efforts in these areas are insufficient and commend my colleague, Mr. Hastings of Florida, for putting the recommendations of a recent National Science Board report into the legislation before us today. Particularly in the areas of construction and infrastructure standards, we need to strengthen and implement the results of ongoing research.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses about the proposed legislation and appreciate the work of the National Science Board in crafting what the Initiative should look like.