*AMS Headquarters*
*45 Beacon Street*
*Boston, MA 02108-3693*

*Phoenix Civic Plaza Convention Center*
*Site of the 2009 AMS Annual Meeting*

March 14, 2007

Dear AMS Committee and Board Chairs,

Planning is already underway for the 2009 AMS Annual Meeting to be held January 11-15, 2009 in Phoenix, Arizona. President-elect Dr. Walter Dabberdt and the AMS Annual Meeting Oversight Committee have chosen "**Urban Weather and Climate: Now and the Future**" as the overarching theme for the meeting.

*Projections for global population growth indicate that cities will continue to grow rapidly at the expense of rural areas, much as they have since the mid-1980's. There is strong empirical evidence that our climate is changing – in large part as a consequence of anthropogenic emissions of radiatively important trace gases. Changes in climate will be accompanied by changes in weather, and there are indications that some climate-induced weather changes may already be happening. In the face of these predicted changes in population, climate and weather, short-range weather forecasts and predictions will be even more important in the future than they are today. However, urban forecasts and warnings still depend on observations and data from a synoptic observations system that was designed decades ago, and which cannot provide the precise, high-resolution weather predictions needed in the cities of today and tomorrow. The implications for public safety can be met by the implementation of advanced regional atmospheric observation systems that facilitate markedly improved warnings, forecasts and prediction of hazardous weather. The onus for this rests on national meteorological services, non-governmental organizations and private industry.* [1]

The purpose of this letter is to request your participation and assistance to make these meetings not only informative but highly focused and relevant to the very real concerns facing our urban communities today and in the future. Six urban sub-themes have been identified for the 2009 AMS Annual Meeting, and STAC (and other AMS) committees and boards are encouraged to contribute to one or more of these themes by 1) holding their specialty conference at the 2009 AMS Annual Meeting, 2) holding joint sessions with another STAC committee or named specialty conference, or 3) conducting special symposia with one or more other STAC committees and boards. The six sub-themes are:

- Measurements in the Urban Environment
- Modeling and Forecasting Urban Areas
- Observations/Studies of High-Impact Weather in Urban Regions
- Geographic Effects on Urban Weather and Climate
- Human and Environmental Impacts (on, by or in the city)
- Urban Implications of Climate Change and Population Growth

[1] Dabberdt, W. F., 2007. Improved weather-related services in cities in the face of climate, weather and population changes. Chapter in **Elements for Life**. World Meteorological Organization, Geneva.

In the past, STAC committees and boards have actively participated in the annual meeting and have worked hard to incorporate cross-cutting themes identified for those meetings. For 2009, we are proposing a somewhat different approach. We have taken the liberty of identifying (see the spreadsheet with this letter) those STAC committees and boards that we believe could make a significant impact and contribution toward a particular theme(s). If a specialty conference at the AMS meetings is not in your plan, then please consider the possibility of participating in a joint symposium with other STAC committees for a highly informative and focused set of sessions on one of the six sub-themes. In addition to providing focused presentations and discussions, joint symposia have the attraction of allowing various Committees and Boards the opportunity to work together and present areas of complimentary and overlapping research between their specialty areas that might not otherwise be possible. We will work closely with you and Claudia Gorski, the AMS Meetings coordinator, to facilitate this process and your participation.

We would, in particular, like to encourage the participation of your Committee at the 2009 meeting. We will contact you shortly, following your receipt of this email, to explore with you further the potential ways in which your committee could contribute and participate.

The relevance and timeliness of these themes can not be overemphasized. Recent events – Katrina, urban floods in Europe, heat waves in London, Paris and Chicago, homeland security concerns and industrial chemical accidents, to name only a few – point out the vulnerability of urban populations to high impact weather of all types. In 2009, the opportunity will exist for you to highlight urban-related research, applications, observations, and modeling efforts ongoing in your scientific and technical communities and present your "urban message" to the broader community. We request that you forward this email to your STAC committee members and discuss whether your committee is interested in participating in the 2009 AMS Annual Meeting. We would appreciate hearing back from you initially by **2nd April** on your anticipated or desired level of involvement, or if you have questions.

Thanks very much for you consideration in this regard and your prompt reply. 2009 will be a unique opportunity to address the weather, climate and societal problems and challenges of the cities.

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Co-Chairs for the 2009 AMS Annual Meetings

cc: Walt Dabberdt, AMS President-Elect

Annex: Urban Sub-Themes and the Various AMS Committees and Boards

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| Committees and Boards | Measurements in the Urban Environment | Modeling and Forecasting Urban Areas | Observations/Studies of High-Impact Urban Weather | Geographic Effects on Urban Weather and Climate | Human and Environmental Impacts (on/by/in the city) | Implications of Climate Change & Population Growth |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agricultural and Forest Meteorology | x | | | x | | |
| Air-Sea Interaction | | x | | X | | |
| Applied Climatology | x | | | x | X | X |
| Artificial Intelligence Applications to Environmental Science | | x | | | | |
| Atmospheric and Oceanic Fluid Dynamics | | x | | | | |
| Atmospheric Chemistry | X | X | X | | | X |
| Atmospheric Electricity | X | x | X | | | |
| Atmospheric Radiation | X | x | | | | x |
| Aviation, Range, and Aerospace Meteorology | | | | | X | |
| Biometeorology and Aerobiology | | | | | X | X |
| Board of Broadcast Meteorologists | | | | | X | x |
| Board on Societal Impacts | | | | | X | X |
| Board on the Urban Environment | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Boundary Layers and Turbulence | X | X | X | | X | |
| Climate Variability and Change | x | X | | | | X |
| Cloud Physics | | x | | x | | |
| Coastal Environment | | x | | X | | |
| Hydrology | X | x | X | X | | x |
| Laser Atmospheric Studies | X | | | | | |
| Measurements | X | | | | | |
| Mesoscale Processes | | X | x | x | | |
| Meteorological Aspects of Air Pollution | x | X | x | | X | x |
| Meteorology and Oceanography of the Southern Hemisphere | | | | X | | x |
| Middle Atmosphere | | | | | | |
| Mountain Meteorology | | x | x | X | | |
| Planned and Inadvertent Weather Modification | | | x | X | | |
| Polar Meteorology and Oceanography | | | | X | | |
| Probability and Statistics | | x | | | | |
| Radar Meteorology | X | x | X | | | |
| Satellite Meteorology and Oceanography | X | x | x | | | |
| Severe Local Storms | | x | X | | | X |
| Tropical Meteorology and Tropical Cyclones | | | X | X | | |
| Weather Analysis and Forecasting | | X | x | | | |