

June 22, 2006

Statement by **Science Committee Chairman Sherwood Boehlert** (R-NY) regarding the National Academy of Sciences Report, *Surface Temperature Reconstructions for the Last 2,000 Years*:

“I think this report shows the value of Congress handling scientific disputes by asking scientists to give us guidance. The report clearly lays out a scientific consensus position on the historic temperature record. One element of that consensus is that the past few decades have been the hottest in at least 400 years. There is nothing in this report that should raise any doubts about the broad scientific consensus on global climate change – which doesn’t rest primarily on these temperature issues, in any event – or any doubts about whether any paper on the temperature records was legitimate scientific work. The report does show, unsurprisingly, that scientists need to continue to work to develop a more precise sense of what global temperatures were between the beginning of the last millennium and about 1600. Congress ought to let them go about that work without political interference.”