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MEDIA ADVISORY: Senator Gregg, NOAA Administrator, and UNH President to Announce Biggest Air Quality-Climate Study Ever Undertaken

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WHAT: U.S. Senator Judd Gregg, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Administrator Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, and University of New Hampshire President Ann Weaver Hart will announce a major, NOAA-led air quality study for the summer of 2004 - the most comprehensive ever undertaken - and the start of daily NOAA air quality forecasts for the New England region beginning in the fall of 2004.

WHEN: Thursday, March 18, 2004, 1 p.m.

WHERE: UNH Thompson Farm Observing Station, Durham, N.H.

DETAILS: This summer's air campaign, which will use the seacoast New Hampshire area as its major platform hub, will involve 12 airplanes, one sea-going research vessel, high-tech balloons, satellites, a network of state-of-the-art ground-based observing stations, and hundreds of scientists from five countries. The effort is part of the New England Air Quality Study - a five-year, \$9 million effort led by NOAA's Aeronomy Laboratory in conjunction with the UNH Atmospheric Investigation, Regional Modeling, Analysis, and Prediction or "AIRMAP" project (<http://airmap.unh.edu/>). A preliminary field campaign in the summer of 2002 - itself large by historic standards - produced a wealth of data and set the stage for this second, much larger field campaign. The study will focus on understanding sources of air pollution in the Northeast by differentiating local, regional and distant sources, and by analyzing the transport and chemical evolution of large air masses.

Funding for the five-year air study was secured by Sen. Gregg, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee. Speakers will also include Daniel Albritton, director of the NOAA Aeronomy Laboratory; Berrien Moore, director of the UNH Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space; and John Lynch, chair of the University System Board of Trustees. The speakers, as well as Robert Talbot, AIRMAP chief scientist and director of EOS's Climate Change Research Center, will be available to answer questions. Media are invited to tour the UNH Thompson Farm Observing Station.

The station is located about two miles south of the Durham campus. Traveling south on 108, turn

right onto Bennett Road and go 1.3 miles to 86 Bennett Road. The station is on the right beyond a cornfield. Park near the farmhouse and walk the short distance to the station.