

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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May 5, 2025

Michael Kratsios  
Director  
Office of Science and Technology Policy  
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Director Kratsios,

I write to you in the wake of the dismissal of hundreds of scientists working on the forthcoming National Climate Assessment (NCA). This decision encapsulates many of the ongoing themes of this Administration – it sets the stage for a violation of the law, it guts federal scientific capabilities, and it gives the Trump Administration yet another opportunity to pretend it can close its eyes to the reality of climate change, as agencies across the government make decisions that prioritize the fossil fuel industry over the Americans who will be harmed by worsening extreme weather and environmental contamination. As the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), which oversees the statutorily mandated United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), you are ultimately responsible for upholding the integrity of this critical assessment, which is invaluable for government at all levels and for the American people to prepare for and respond to the consequences of climate change.

The Global Change Research Act of 1990 established the United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) to coordinate federal agency efforts on understanding and responding to climate change. One of USGCRP's statutory responsibilities is issuing a scientific assessment every four years to integrate, evaluate, and interpret the findings of the work of the USGCRP and analyze the trends and consequences of climate change.<sup>1</sup> The next NCA was planned for release in 2028, and work on the assessment was initiated in March 2024. Authors were selected last summer and have been working to produce chapter outlines.<sup>2</sup> Now, with their dismissal, a year's worth of work – and the taxpayer money that supported it – is wasted.

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<sup>1</sup> Public Law 101-606, accessed here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/101st-congress/senate-bill/169/text>.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Global Change Research Program, Sixth National Climate Assessment, Timeline, accessed here: <https://www.globalchange.gov/nca6>.

While the NCA authors were selected in a formal, public process that offered the opportunity for comment,<sup>3</sup> the decision to terminate them was made with absolutely no transparency. Hundreds of authors were dismissed via email, and public reporting is not even clear on what office or individual relayed the dismissals.<sup>4</sup> This is business as usual for the Trump Administration, when every day brings a new, often catastrophic decision with no clarity on whether that decision was made by President Trump, an agency leader, or the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)’s hackers and their ringleader, co-President Elon Musk.

In your confirmation hearing, you told the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation that furthering American innovation requires the United States to “continue to provide for the American citizenry, to enhance our national security, to imprint the future with American character and improve the welfare of all mankind.”<sup>5</sup> All four of these objectives fail if the NCA is canceled or bastardized with climate denialism. The welfare of Americans, and of all mankind, depends on a clear-eyed understanding of the disastrous public health, environmental, and financial consequences of worsening climate change. The storms and rising sea levels that endanger coastal communities and industries also impact billions of dollars’ worth of civilian and military installations that are integral to our national security, including utilities, water treatment plants, and military bases.<sup>6</sup> Allowing anti-science politicization to stymie the federal government’s climate science work leaves us ill equipped to participate in international climate negotiations, rejecting the opportunity to “imprint the future” with America’s characteristic scientific leadership.

This is not the only step this Administration has taken to impede the work of the USGCRP in its responsibility to release the NCA. In early April, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) issued stop-work orders to the contractor providing staffing and support to the USGCRP.<sup>7</sup> In order to understand the decisions that hamper the USGCRP’s ability to produce its statutorily mandated report, I ask that you respond to the following questions by May 19, 2025:

1. Who made the decision to dismiss the hundreds of authors of the upcoming NCA?

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<sup>3</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Availability for Public Comment on NCA6 Draft Prospectus; Call for Authors and Contributors, Technical Inputs; and Notice of Public Engagement, Federal Register, May 2, 2024, accessed here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/05/02/2024-09575/national-oceanic-and-atmospheric-administration-noaa-availability-for-public-comment-on-nca6-draft>.

<sup>4</sup> Andrew Jeong, “Trump administration dismisses authors of key climate report,” *Washington Post*, April 29, 2025, accessed here: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2025/04/29/trump-nca-climate-change/>.

<sup>5</sup> Statement of Michael J.K. Kratsios, Nominee for Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, February 25, 2025, accessed here: <https://www.commerce.senate.gov/services/files/89A4817F-DBBC-4FC2-8891-28729474BCE0>.

<sup>6</sup> Government Accountability Office, “Climate Change Risks to National Security,” September 2022, accessed here: <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-22-105830.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> Brad Plumer, “Trump Administration Cuts Funding and Staff for Flagship Climate Report,” *The New York Times*, April 9, 2025, accessed here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/09/climate/trump-national-climate-assessment.html>.

2. Did OSTP have input into the decision for NASA to issue stop-work orders, with notification of intention to terminate, on the ICF International contract and associated task orders?
3. Did DOGE representatives order the cancelation of the ICF International contract or the dismissal of the authors of the NCA?
4. Please detail any additional steps that have been taken, including by whom, since January 20, 2025, that affect the USGCRP workforce (federal or contracted, paid or volunteer), resources, or ability to complete the NCA.

Pursuant to Rule X of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology “shall review and study on a continuing basis laws, programs, and Government activities relating to nonmilitary research and development.”<sup>8</sup> The Committee possesses jurisdiction over environmental research and development.<sup>9</sup> If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Sara Palasits or Kristi Parrott with the Committee’s Minority staff at (202) 225-6375. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Zoe Lofgren  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

CC: Brian Babin  
Chairman  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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<sup>8</sup> [119 First Session House Rules](#).

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*