

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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September 10, 2019

The Honorable Peggy E. Gustafson  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Office of Inspector General  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ms. Gustafson,

I am writing in support of your investigation of the statement issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on September 6, 2019.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, I am requesting a copy of the letter you sent to NOAA staff notifying them of this investigation, referenced in a New York Times article updated this morning.<sup>2</sup>

I am in full agreement with your assessment, as quoted in the New York Times piece, that this is an issue of scientific integrity and potentially disrupts the ability of the National Weather Service to disseminate critical safety information in the midst of hurricane season. I am eager to remain apprised of your office's work on this issue. As the scope of your investigation develops in the coming week, please keep my staff informed. As Chairwoman of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I take very seriously any threat to the integrity of our federal science agencies and their ability to communicate with the public.

Sincerely,



EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON  
Chairwoman

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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<sup>1</sup> "Statement from NOAA," National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, September 6, 2019, accessed here: <https://www.noaa.gov/news/statement-from-noaa>

<sup>2</sup> Christopher Flavelle, Lisa Friedman and Peter Baker, "Commerce Chief Threatened Firings at NOAA After Trump's Dorian Tweets, Sources Say," *New York Times*, September 9, 2019, accessed here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/09/climate/hurricane-dorian-trump-tweet.html>