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April 19, 2024

Dr. Richard W. Spinrad
Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 5128
Washington, D.C. 20320

Administrator Spinrad,

On March 12, 2024, I, along with several of my colleagues, wrote to you expressing our concern that the Biden Administration is using fundamentally flawed and inaccurate temperature readings to help advance its climate goals. We included in our letter a list of questions, including how your volunteers are trained to collect data from existing monitoring stations and how data is peer reviewed, among others. Our questions were designed to provide greater transparency to Congress and the American people so that we have the ability to assess the accuracy of the agency's information, recommendations and policies.

Recent media publications from several news outlets have highlighted the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) "Billions Project" dataset, which tracks information related to climate and natural disasters that allegedly resulted in at least \$1 billion dollars in damages since 1980. According to Protect the Public's Trust (PPT), a group of retired and former public servants who help inform the American people about unethical and improper behavior of senior government officials, the billion-dollar disasters (BDD) data so often cited by the Biden Administration is based on questionable accounting practices and nontransparent information.

The BDD data reportedly does not distinguish climate change from other disaster losses. In fact, the "Billions Project" does not utilize climate data at all. It simply highlights losses from disasters that allegedly caused over \$1 billion dollars in economic impact and damages. Because the BDD data manipulates the truth behind the climate's overall impact on human life over the past 34 years, NOAA is able to use this faulty data to craft a narrative that allows it to amass more power and resources, while asserting more control over the everyday lives of Americans. In short, this Administration is relying on this faulty data to promulgate new rules and regulations in the name of "climate change," while failing to tell the American public the truth about such data.

PPT has also highlighted the fact that NOAA is subject to the scientific integrity policies under NOAA Administrative Order 202-735D.3 (the "SI Order"), which was intended to strengthen the general confidence of the public in how the scientific method is used at the federal level. Included in the SI Order is an order forbidding the "Suppression of Science," which is defined as the "deliberate . . . [d]istorting or selective releasing of scientific analysis, assessment, research, product, or data for public communication."

NOAA is clearly not complying with its own scientific integrity standards. Leaving out essential information and crafting a narrative on the economic impact of so-called climate change without actual scientific data on the climate's impact on human life over the last 34 years is a fabrication of reality, and a violation of NOAA's SI Order and related policies.

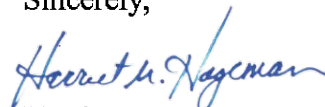
NOAA's manipulation of the total costs of climate-related disaster goes beyond the fabrication of a false narrative. NOAA also fails to identify its method for calculating disaster losses. The project does not identify what sources it uses as it relates to disaster losses. The only information NOAA has made available on this subject states that the agency uses over "one dozen public and private sector data sources" to "help capture the total, direct costs of weather and climate events."

Not only does NOAA fail to identify its method for calculating disaster loss and hides the information pertaining to the sources it uses to calculate these losses, but it also fails to provide any of its own cost estimates. For these reasons, I request that NOAA respond to this letter with the following information as it relates to BDD data:

1. Detailed information on each of the public and private data sources NOAA uses to "help capture the total, direct costs of weather and climate events."
2. NOAA's method of calculating disaster losses.
3. NOAA's own estimates on disaster losses.

Transparency is essential for ensuring accountability, trust, and an informed citizenry. By providing access to information about NOAA's actions, decisions, and policies as it relates to BDD data, the American people are better able to understand the actions and decisions of the Administration. Transparency fosters public trust in government institutions, as citizens can see how their tax dollars are being spent and understand the rationale behind disaster-related policy choices. For the sake of transparency, I ask that NOAA respond to me in a timely manner on the aforementioned requests, but in no event later than May 15, 2024. We also look forward to receiving your response to our March 12, 2024 inquiry.

Sincerely,



Harriet M. Hageman
Member of Congress