

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 13, 2025

Laura Grimm
Acting Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Acting Administrator Grimm,

According to the Billion Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters report, the United States has experienced at least 403 billion-dollar weather and climate disasters that created more than \$2.915 trillion in damage since 1980.¹ With the frequency of extreme weather events increasing each year, it is critical to understand the economic impact of these storms. However, on May 8, 2025, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced the end of the Billion Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters report. We are alarmed by this cancellation and its impact on our ability to understand and respond to weather and climate disasters.

As implied by its name, the Billion Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters report tracks the cost of disasters that cause at least \$1 billion in damage. When NOAA began issuing the report in 1980, the United States experienced approximately three billion-dollar disasters per year. From 2020 to 2024, the United States experienced an average of 23 billion-dollar disasters per year.² In 2024 alone, 27 natural disasters including tropical cyclones, flooding, tornadoes, wildfires, and more each had damage that exceeded a billion dollars, and altogether, created \$182.7 billion in damage to communities across our country. These extreme weather events caused an estimated 568 fatalities.³ The Billion Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters report provides the data needed to understand the full scope of these disasters.

Thanks to the Billion Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters report, we know that the extreme flooding that rocked Rhode Island in December 2023 was part of a forceful East Coast storm that caused \$1.3 billion in damage from Florida to Maine and took 5 lives.⁴ The report also illuminates the outsized impact of billion-dollar disasters on certain states. For example, Texas has experienced the most billion-dollar disasters of any state, experiencing 190 billion-dollar disasters since 1980.⁵ In January 2025, the Palisades and Eaton wildfires destroyed over 37,000 acres of land and more than 16,000 residential and commercial structures.⁶ Experts believe the fires caused up to \$131 billion in damage, with costs expected to rise.⁷ Unfortunately, we may never know the full cost of the Palisades and Eaton wildfires. Thanks to your cancellation of the Billion Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters report, NOAA scientists are no longer updating the online cost database.

We cannot respond to a problem if we do not understand it. Without the Billion Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters report, it will be significantly more difficult for scientists and policymakers to understand and respond

¹ <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/08/climate/noaa-billion-dollar-disasters.html>

³ <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/beyond-data/2024-active-year-us-billion-dollar-weather-and-climate-disasters>

⁴ <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/events>

⁵ <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/state-summary/TX>

⁶ <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2025/1/7/palisades-fire> and <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2025/1/7/eaton-fire>

⁷ <https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/about/centers/ucla-anderson-forecast/economic-impact-los-angeles-wildfires>

to the economic effects of climate change. Since its inception, hundreds of peer-reviewed studies have cited or used data from the report for analysis on climate impacts, economic losses, and policy recommendations. In addition to painting a picture of climate change's economic impact, the report details disaster frequency and duration trends and maps risk and vulnerability levels by county and census tract. Americans rely on this data to understand climate risks and potential insurance rates before purchasing a home. Lawmakers at the local, state, and federal level rely on the report when making public policy decisions, such as elevating homes, hardening energy grids, and managing floodplains, and scientists rely on its data to study climate change.

NOAA attributed the cancellation of the report to "evolving priorities, statutory mandates, and staffing changes".⁸ However, it is clear this cancellation is just another attack in the Trump administration's crusade against climate science and NOAA. From proposing massive budget cuts to firing climate scientists to retiring multiple critical datasets and products, the Trump administration is trying to hide the true cost and impact of climate change from the American people. Preventing scientists from studying climate change and educating the public will not lessen the damage caused by more frequent extreme weather events. It will simply make us less prepared to respond to them, increasing climate change's human and economic cost.

With this in mind, we request answers to the following questions.


1. Will another NOAA office track and publicly report the economic impact of weather and climate disasters?
2. What is your plan to track the economic impact of weather and climate disasters?
3. Did insufficient staffing levels influence your decision to retire the Billion Dollar Weather and Climate Disaster report?

We ask that you respond to these questions no later than June 27, 2025, and urge you to reinstate the Billion Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters product. The well-being of millions of Americans depends on it.

Sincerely,



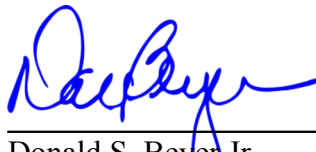
Gabe Amo
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment



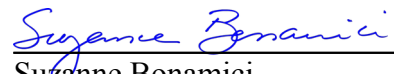
Emilia Strong Sykes
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Investigations &
Oversight



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

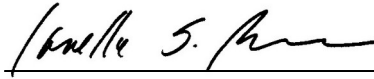


Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

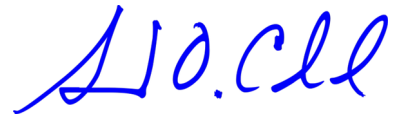
⁸ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/noaa-ending-billion-dollar-disasters-database/>




Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



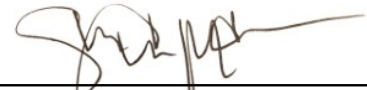
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



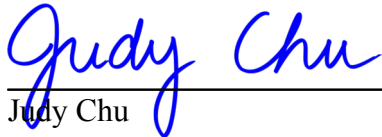
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Kathy Castor
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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
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Judy Chu
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
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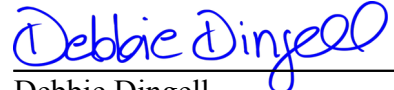
Diana DeGette
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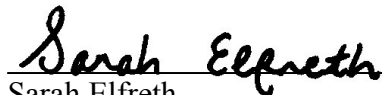
Mark DeSaulnier
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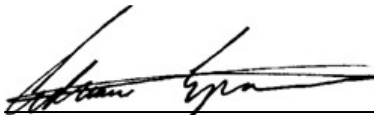
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Sarah Elfreth
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Adriano Espaillat
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Cleo Fields
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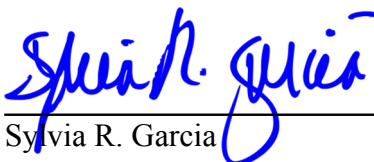
Bill Foster
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Valerie P. Foushee
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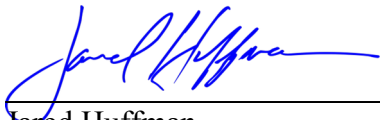
Robert Garcia
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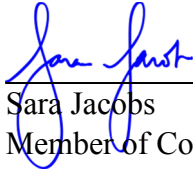
Sylvia R. Garcia
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Jared Huffman
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Sara Jacobs
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Pramila Jayapal
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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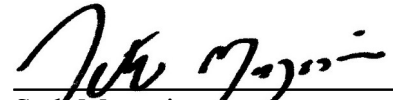
John B. Larson
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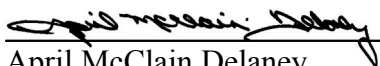
George Latimer
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Mike Levin
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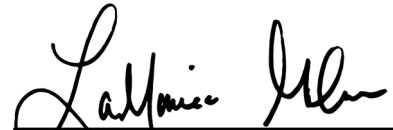
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Betty McCollum
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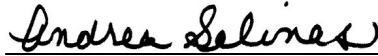
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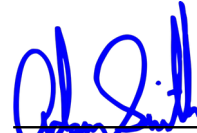
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
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Terri A. Sewell
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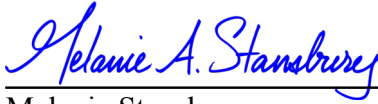
Brad Sherman
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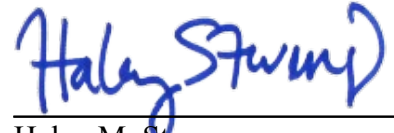
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Eric Sorensen
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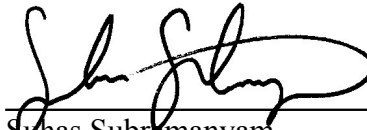
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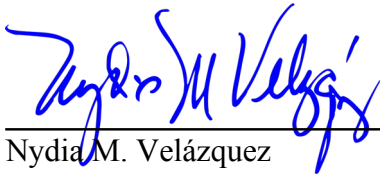
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