

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2025

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th St NW
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable Stephen Ehikian
Acting Administrator
General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Director Vought and Acting Administrator Ehikian:

A powerful storm system recently ripped across the Midwest and South causing tornadoes, heavy winds and rain, dust storms, and wildfires. Tragically, at least 42 lives have been lost, thousands have lost their homes and businesses, and many communities will struggle to recover. The toll of these storms has been high, and it would have been even higher without the information from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Weather Service (NWS). Many of our constituents rely on this information when they are seeking to protect their loved ones and communities during severe weather.

That is why we are deeply troubled by the administration's ongoing plans to lay off thousands of agency staff and shutter dozens of NOAA and NWS offices. These agencies provide critical forecasting that supports emergency response efforts, saves lives, and mitigates damage during severe weather events. Cutting these services as extreme weather intensifies is a costly mistake. We urge you to reverse course before these reductions further weaken disaster preparedness, put more lives at risk, and increase the financial burden on recovering communities.

Based on the warnings issued by the NWS, large swaths of the nation were given a window to prepare for the severe weather earlier this week, readying tornado shelters, purchasing supplies, packing go bags, and ensuring they had an emergency plan in place. However, NOAA has already faced extreme cuts to staff since February, including meteorologists, engineers, and flight crews, and its ability to fulfill its mission has been severely compromised.

The consequences of these cuts are already unfolding. Weather balloon launches have been suspended in some regions. NOAA's Hurricane Hunter aircraft are operating with reduced crews. Some local forecast offices are even scaling back services when they are needed most, resulting in delayed or reduced severe weather alerts. These cuts leave emergency responders and residents with less time to act putting more people at risk of injury and even death. This is particularly dangerous as we are currently in tornado season, and we are preparing for hurricane season.

In addition to endangering lives, weakening NOAA and NWS will not save money. It will result in higher disaster recovery costs, increased insurance premiums, and preventable economic

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losses. Insurance companies depend on NOAA's data to assess climate risks and set coverage rates. Without reliable forecasting, insurers may withdraw from high-risk areas or dramatically raise premiums, leaving many without affordable coverage. While we understand the need to address the national deficit, cutting these agencies will only cost the government, and our constituents, more money.

This decision should be immediately reconsidered. Investing in these agencies will help safeguard communities, support emergency responders who rely on accurate forecasting, and strengthen the nation's ability to respond to severe weather. The true cost of cutting or eliminating critical NOAA and NWS services will be far greater than the cost of maintaining them.

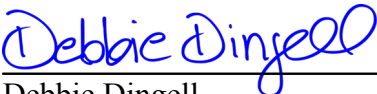
Sincerely,



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



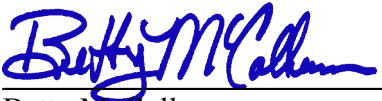
Shri Thanedar
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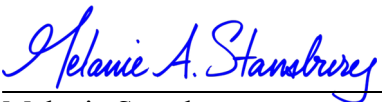
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Lori Trahan
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CC:

Vice Admiral Nancy A. Hann, Acting Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Ken Graham, Director, National Weather Service