

Benjamin Friedman - NOAA Federal

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**From:** Benjamin Friedman - NOAA Federal  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 10, 2019 9:20 AM  
**To:** Tanya Dobrzynski - NOAA Federal  
**Cc:** Makeda Okolo - NOAA Federal  
**Subject:** Re: Questions on NOAA directives and statements regarding Hurricane Dorian

I agree. Understand that all of this is driven by the political team - as careers there is not much we can say.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 10, 2019, at 8:44 AM, Tanya Dobrzynski - NOAA Federal <[tanya.dobrzynski@noaa.gov](mailto:tanya.dobrzynski@noaa.gov)> wrote:

I'd suggest we discuss this a bit further. We've heard SCC minority (Cantwell) wants to hold a hearing. SCC majority is asking for Neil to come in and explain next week. We've gotten letters from House Science and Sen. Blumenthal. I think we need leadership guidance on the response as I noted yesterday. [REDACTED] (b)(5)

Let me know if you have any time today to discuss.

Thanks,  
Tanya

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Deputy Director  
NOAA Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs  
202-482-3596  
[REDACTED] (b)(6) (cell)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Benjamin Friedman - NOAA Federal** <[benjamin.friedman@noaa.gov](mailto:benjamin.friedman@noaa.gov)>  
Date: Mon, Sep 9, 2019 at 5:13 PM  
Subject: Re: Questions on NOAA directives and statements regarding Hurricane Dorian  
To: Tanya Dobrzynski - NOAA Federal <[tanya.dobrzynski@noaa.gov](mailto:tanya.dobrzynski@noaa.gov)>, Davidson, Hillary (Federal) <[HDavidson@doc.gov](mailto:HDavidson@doc.gov)>

Tanya:

Have you met Hillary Davidson, yet? She is working on oversight issues for us. I am cc:ing her

on this e-mail. She probably can't give you specific information, but can assist in any responses.

Ben

Ben Friedman  
Deputy Under Secretary for Operations  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
202-482-4569 (O)  
202-408-9674 (Fax)

On Mon, Sep 9, 2019 at 1:16 PM Tanya Dobrzynski - NOAA Federal  
<[tanya.dobrzynski@noaa.gov](mailto:tanya.dobrzynski@noaa.gov)> wrote:

Am hoping guidance for how best to address this type of correspondence will be forthcoming...?

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Deputy Director  
NOAA Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs  
202-482-3596  
(b)(6) (cell)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Matthew Borgia - NOAA Federal** <[matthew.borgia@noaa.gov](mailto:matthew.borgia@noaa.gov)>  
Date: Mon, Sep 9, 2019 at 12:09 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Questions on NOAA directives and statements regarding Hurricane Dorian  
To: Wendy Lewis <[wendy.lewis@noaa.gov](mailto:wendy.lewis@noaa.gov)>, Tanya Dobrzynski <[Tanya.Dobrzynski@noaa.gov](mailto:Tanya.Dobrzynski@noaa.gov)>

Wendy (& Tanya),  
Please advise on how you'd like to proceed on this. If it needs to go to the "oversight" office, or NOAA Policy, or elsewhere.

Thanks!

Matt

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hooghan, Priyanka** <[Priyanka.Hooghan@mail.house.gov](mailto:Priyanka.Hooghan@mail.house.gov)>  
Date: Mon, Sep 9, 2019 at 12:00 PM  
Subject: Questions on NOAA directives and statements regarding Hurricane Dorian  
To: Wendy Lewis <[wendy.lewis@noaa.gov](mailto:wendy.lewis@noaa.gov)>, Matthew Borgia - NOAA Federal  
<[matthew.borgia@noaa.gov](mailto:matthew.borgia@noaa.gov)>, [john.sokich@noaa.gov](mailto:john.sokich@noaa.gov) <[john.sokich@noaa.gov](mailto:john.sokich@noaa.gov)>  
Cc: Thompson, Janie <[Janie.Thompson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Janie.Thompson@mail.house.gov)>

Hi Wendy, Matt, and John,

We are reaching out regarding NOAA's recent [Agency-wide directive](#) to staff following [the President's tweet on September 1<sup>st</sup>](#), and well as the Agency's September 6<sup>th</sup> [statement on Hurricane Dorian](#). Please provide us with responses to the following questions no later than COB next **Monday September 16<sup>th</sup>**:

- Which members of NOAA leadership were involved in drafting and issuing the NOAA-wide directive to staff on September 1 in which they were told to "stick with official National Hurricane Center forecasts" and "not provide any opinion"?
  - Was NOAA directed by the Department of Commerce or White House leadership to issue an Agency-wide directive for this purpose. If so, who within DOC or the White House issued this direction?
- Which members of NOAA leadership were involved in drafting and issuing the September 6 public statement from NOAA, disavowing the NWS Birmingham's [tweet](#)?
  - Was NOAA directed by the Department of Commerce or White House leadership to issue a statement for this purpose. If so, who within DOC or the White House issued this direction?

Additionally, we have attached Chairwoman Johnson's letter to President Trump regarding a White House video released last week that showed a placard of a Hurricane Dorian forecast that had been altered to suggest the hurricane was forecasted to impact Alabama. Let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Priyanka

Priyanka K. Hooghan

*Staff Director - Subcommittee on Environment*

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology*

*U.S. House of Representatives*

*2321 Rayburn House Office Building*

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