

This is about a third(?) of the speech that addresses the issue:

I have the utmost respect for what you do because I understand how difficult numerical weather prediction is, and how even more complicated conveying risk to the public is.

The purpose of the NOAA statement was to clarify the technical aspects of the potential impacts of Dorian. What it did not say however, is that we understand and fully support the good intent of the Birmingham Weather Forecast Office, which was to calm fears and support the public safety. I am proud of the outstanding work by all of the weather forecast offices, including Birmingham during the span of the storm. Not to mention Charleston, Wilmington and Morehead City, who were directly impacted but continued to provide mission critical support.

There is no pressure to change the way you convey forecast risk into the future. No one's job is under threat – not mine, not yours. The Weather Service team has my full support and the support of the Department. It is critically important for our team to support the work you do to protect lives and property, and that includes providing information through a variety of means including social media. Social media is an essential new tool to convey watches and warnings to the public.

Weather should not be a partisan issue. I know some of you for more than 25 years. I haven't changed. I'm the same Neil I was last Thursday. I am a modeler and a forecaster. And I will do everything I can to support you and your critical mission to protect life and property of the American people. I am clearing off my calendar to visit as many forecast offices as I can. I would love to try to hit all of them, but if I can't I will certainly call into the rest.

Thank you Louis for your leadership and your support. Thank you National Weather Service forecasters and state and local emergency managers. And thank you Birmingham – Chris Darden, Kevin Laws(?) and the rest of the team. Thank you for the job you do and for the lives you save.