

**Stuart Levenbach - NOAA Federal**

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**From:** Stuart Levenbach - NOAA Federal  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 8, 2019 6:27 AM  
**To:** Timothy Gallaudet - NOAA Federal  
**Subject:** Re: A plea from the trenches

Tim,

You have not been involved in the development and approval of this statement and, now that it is becoming a matter of oversight by OIG and others, I recommend avoiding commenting on it.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (b)(5) [REDACTED]

News outlets are reporting that both Neil and Julie were involved in the drafting of the statement. Should someone ask you about your role, I'm comfortable with you saying that you were not involved.

Stu

On Sun, Sep 8, 2019 at 5:48 AM Timothy Gallaudet - NOAA Federal <[timothy.gallaudet@noaa.gov](mailto:timothy.gallaudet@noaa.gov)> wrote:  
Hi Gary,

I've written you before with genuine appreciation for the fine contributions made by you in OR&R and everyone in NOAA.

<https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/minds-behind-orr-meet-marine-biologist-gary-shigenaka>

So please accept Neil's reply as a sincere acknowledgement of a press release we did not approve or support. You know from my multiple messages to you and your colleagues that we respect and stand behind your service and scientific integrity.

With gratitude and respect,

Rear Admiral Tim Gallaudet, Ph.D., U.S. Navy (ret)  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere/  
Deputy NOAA Administrator

> On Sep 8, 2019, at 5:41 PM, Neil Jacobs - NOAA Federal <[neil.jacobs@noaa.gov](mailto:neil.jacobs@noaa.gov)> wrote:

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> Gary,

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> This whole thing is being blown way out of proportion and politicized. The so-called tweet said absolutely no chance of impacts and NHC guidance was calling for 5-30%. The forecast office did the right thing to calm the nerves of citizens. I love NOAA. I am so proud of everything you all do.

>  
> You have no idea how hard I'm fighting to keep politics out of science. We are an objective science agency, and we won't and never will base any decisions on anything other than science.  
>  
> -Neil  
>  
>  
>> On Sep 8, 2019, at 12:28 AM, Gary Shigenaka - NOAA Federal <[gary.shigenaka@noaa.gov](mailto:gary.shigenaka@noaa.gov)> wrote:  
>>  
>> Dear Dr. Jacobs,  
>>  
>> I am a 40-year NOAA scientist. Please address this crisis in moral leadership our agency is facing. I think you know very well what an incredible group of dedicated employees you have. Please reassure those of us who serve the public, and do so with commitment and humility that we are not mere pawns in an absurd game. Please do not allow the science and support that we perform on behalf of the American public to be tossed into the trash heap by political expediencies. Please support us and stand with us. Please.  
>>  
>> With great respect,  
>>  
>> gary shigenaka  
>> Seattle, WA  
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>> --  
>> Gary Shigenaka  
>> Senior Biologist  
>> NOAA/Emergency Response Division  
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