

## Wendy Lewis - NOAA Federal

---

**From:** Wendy Lewis - NOAA Federal  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 10, 2019 4:01 PM  
**To:** Nicholas Flocken - NOAA Federal  
**Cc:** Glacken, Meredith (Federal); Brebbia, Sean (Federal); John Luce - NOAA Federal; Hillary Davidson - NOAA Federal; Benjamin Friedman - NOAA Federal; Stuart Levenbach - NOAA Federal  
**Subject:** Re: Chair Grijalva, Rep. Huffman Request Documents From Commerce Sec. Wilbur Ross on "Sharpiegate" Political Interference, Threats Against NOAA Staff

Just a press release at the moment. There are about 3 more from other members headed your way.

On Tue, Sep 10, 2019 at 3:59 PM Nicholas Flocken - NOAA Federal <[nicholas.flocken@noaa.gov](mailto:nicholas.flocken@noaa.gov)> wrote:  
Looping in OSP for awareness. Is there a letter? or just the press release?

This is the second Congressional request regarding Dorian. There is also a request from Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson to the WH.

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

**From:** Benjamin Friedman - NOAA Federal <[benjamin.friedman@noaa.gov](mailto:benjamin.friedman@noaa.gov)>  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 10, 2019 at 3:50 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Chair Grijalva, Rep. Huffman Request Documents From Commerce Sec. Wilbur Ross on "Sharpiegate" Political Interference, Threats Against NOAA Staff  
**To:** <[nicholas.flocken@noaa.gov](mailto:nicholas.flocken@noaa.gov)>, <[stuart.levenbach@noaa.gov](mailto:stuart.levenbach@noaa.gov)>, <[hillary.davidson@noaa.gov](mailto:hillary.davidson@noaa.gov)>

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Makeda Okolo - NOAA Federal <[makeda.okolo@noaa.gov](mailto:makeda.okolo@noaa.gov)>  
**Date:** September 10, 2019 at 3:28:57 PM EDT  
**To:** Benjamin Friedman - NOAA Federal <[benjamin.friedman@noaa.gov](mailto:benjamin.friedman@noaa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Chair Grijalva, Rep. Huffman Request Documents From Commerce Sec. Wilbur Ross on "Sharpiegate" Political Interference, Threats Against NOAA Staff

FYI

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

**From:** Sarvana, Adam <[Adam.Sarvana@mail.house.gov](mailto:Adam.Sarvana@mail.house.gov)>  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 10, 2019 at 1:34 PM  
**Subject:** Chair Grijalva, Rep. Huffman Request Documents From Commerce Sec. Wilbur Ross

on “Sharpiegate” Political Interference, Threats Against NOAA Staff

To:

cid:image002.jpg@01D4A390.CA53E1A0

**September 10, 2019**

Media Contact: Adam Sarvana  
(202) 225-6065 or (202) 578-6626 mobile

## Chair Grijalva, Rep. Huffman Request Documents From Commerce Sec. Wilbur Ross on “Sharpiegate” Political Interference, Threats Against NOAA Staff

*Washington, D.C.* – Chair Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and Rep. Jared Huffman (D-Calif.), chair of the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, wrote to Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross today requesting a series of documents on his reported threats against long-time National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) officials in connection with President Trump’s inaccurate, widely debunked claim that Hurricane Dorian would put Alabama at risk of storm damage. The Natural Resources Committee has jurisdiction over many of NOAA’s functions, including fisheries and coastal zone management, among others.

President Trump’s insistence that he was correct in his false assertion that Hurricane Dorian threatened Alabama has become known as “Sharpiegate,” after the White House released an obviously doctored map of the hurricane’s expected path across the Southeast. The lawmakers’ letter is available at <http://bit.ly/2kCpdEY>.

On Sept. 9, the *New York Times* reported that on Sept. 6, Ross called Dr. Neil Jacobs, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Acting Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, to instruct him to “fix the agency’s perceived contradiction of the president” and threatened to fire NOAA’s political staff. Later that day, NOAA issued a false, unsigned statement contradicting an earlier accurate tweet from the National Weather Service’s (NWS) Birmingham, Ala., office saying that Alabama was not at risk from Hurricane Dorian.

“If true,” the lawmakers write, “these allegations, along with your prior promulgation of regulations to allow overfishing, demonstrate a potential pattern of intent to exert political influence over the agency’s scientific integrity.”

Grijalva and Huffman request three sets of documents by Sept. 24:

1. All documents, communications, and records of communications referring or relating to the creation or drafting of NOAA’s unsigned September 6 statement;
2. All documents, communication, and records of communications from Secretary Ross and Department of Commerce staff referring or relating to participation in communication related to Hurricane Dorian; and
3. All documents and communications from NOAA and NWS employees referring or relating to participation in communications related to Hurricane Dorian.

###

Stay in touch with Democrats on the House Natural Resources Committee  
[Website](#) – [Facebook](#) – [Twitter](#) – [Newsletter](#)

--

Makeda M. Okolo  
Policy Advisor – Deputy Under Secretary for Operations  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
1401 Constitution Ave. NW, Floor 5, #58012RA  
Washington, DC 20230  
E-mail: [Makeda.Okolo@noaa.gov](mailto:Makeda.Okolo@noaa.gov)  
Office: 202-482-1473  
Cell: (b)(6)

--



**Nicholas I. Flocken**

Policy Advisor  
Office of the Under Secretary  
NOAA  
Cell: (b)(6)  
Desk: 202-482-0533

--

Wendy Lewis  
Director  
Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Direct: (202) 482.5448  
Cell: (b)(6)  
Email: [wendy.lewis@noaa.gov](mailto:wendy.lewis@noaa.gov)