

Potential outline for the talk

- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (b)(5) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- Weather is not a partisan issue - it impacts all Americans.
- I have the utmost respect for what you do as I understand how difficult numerical weather prediction is and how even more complicated conveying risk to the public can be.
- The purpose of the statement NOAA released on Friday was to address the technical aspects of the potential impacts of Dorian. What the statement did not say, however, is that I understand and fully support the good intent of the Birmingham WFO, which was to calm fears in support of public safety.
- I [REDACTED] (b)(5) [REDACTED] am proud of the outstanding work that all the WFOs - including Birmingham -- have done over the past several weeks.
- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (b)(5) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (b)(5) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- 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.
- There is no pressure to change the way you communicate forecast 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.
- Why is IDSS important?

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- Helps interface with the weather enterprise, including emergency managers, academia, and the private sector.
- Helps our life saving forecasts reach a wider population. It is a force multiplier.
- It also merges where our products and services end and where other agencies, such as FEMA's preparedness planning and aid, begin. These efforts protect life and property.
- When it comes to weather forecasting, the important story is the success of the GFS. Lost in the media coverage was that we are seeing the fruits of many years of investments into improving American weather forecasting.
- EPIC is possible due to the bipartisan support in Congress and the unwavering support of this Administration.
- In 2017, the President signed the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act. This new law was the first comprehensive piece of weather-related legislation in 20 years. It shows this Administration is committed to NOAA's important mission of weather forecasting, and included sections to advance weather forecast communication and IDSS.
- The following year the President signed the National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act. Among several critical new authorities was EPIC, a new initiative that I believe will advance our weather forecasting capabilities even further.
- The authorization of EPIC was followed by a request of \$15M in the President's FY20 Budget. With this funding, NOAA will be able to simplify and modernize the code and begin porting it into cloud-based servers so that everyone has access to our weather modelling and can have a hand in improving our skill.
- The Administration doesn't want to stop there. I can say from my conversations with the President, he told me directly that he is genuinely interested in improving weather forecasts. He wants to know how we can make it even better and give people even more confidence in all of your forecasts.
- We all know that there are other weather models out there, including the often touted European model. I am here today to tell you that we are on track to surpass the ECMWF and reclaim the title of the best weather model in the world, but I need your help. We are close. We can't let up

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now. We recently upgraded to the FV3, the brand new engine of our weather model, which gives us the capability to improve more than we ever have. We are at a defining moment where we can focus our efforts collectively on the passion we all share, and that's creating the most accurate and timely weather forecasts possible.

- I am confident that if we all work together, we can achieve great things for earth system modeling and the weather enterprise.
- In conclusion, I want to thank you again for all the hard work you do. My pledge to you is that I will do everything I can to support you and your critical mission to save lives and property of the American people.