

Chris Gegax

From: Chris Gegax
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 3:26 PM
To: craig.mclean@noaa.gov
Subject: Forecasting

Dear Mr. McLean,

I'm sorry to be writing to you today, but I'm confused and concerned about recent events. Why did the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration defend President Trump's Sept. 1 false claim about Hurricane Dorian striking Alabama and admonish the National Weather Service's Birmingham division for correcting the record?

I don't understand why NOAA would concede the truth during a weather emergency, when accuracy and messaging are vital to keeping the public safe. NOAA's criticism of the Birmingham forecast office is unwarranted. NWS Birmingham should have been commended for their quick action to correct the record based on science and clearly communicating the lack of threat to the citizens of Alabama.

In my 48 years I've always considered NOAA to conduct its work in an apolitical, and evidence-based manner. It's chilling to think that, in 2019, politics could be more important to NOAA than the integrity of the forecasting process.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my letter.

Best wishes,
Chris Gegax
Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA