

Zeba Knight

From: Zeba Knight
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 1:21 PM
To: julie.roberts@noaa.gov
Cc: elizabeth Bohlen
Subject: NOAA's public backing of the president's "forecast"

Hello Ms. Roberts,

I am a long-time fan of NOAA's numerous excellent contributions to science, to society, and to the planet's wellbeing. Most recently I have been watching the Okeanos Explorer's ROV dives. I am not sure to whom I should send this letter. Please forward it to the appropriate recipient if I have knocked on the wrong door.

I was beyond distressed to read in today's Boston Globe Newspaper (Boston Globe, Saturday, September 7, 2019) that unnamed sources at NOAA have backed up Donald Trump's claims that the National Weather Service forecast was that Alabama "... will most likely be hit" by Hurricane Dorian. I'm sure you know the details of this latest episode in the long stream of bizarre posts from this president.

I will omit any further comment about Trump. I'm writing to stress that his lying to the public about a life or death matter such as the path of a category 5 hurricane can have terrible consequences. It is very bad that the president lies, but it is a disaster when he can force the scientific institutions of the USA to back up his lies. United States citizens are in deep, deep trouble when they can no longer trust their own country's scientists to tell them the truth. I would like NOAA to make a public statement that stands behind the Birmingham National Weather Service's past record and its current position on this matter.

Please help to fix this in any way that you can. Thank you for what you do, and for reading/forwarding my plea.

Elizabeth H. Bohlen
Cambridge, MA