

Megan Latimer

From: Megan Latimer
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 12:38 PM
To: neil.jacobs@noaa.gov
Subject: Statement from NOAA

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

By making this political statement, providing air cover for President Trump's inaccurate tweet while throwing your local Birmingham NWS forecaster under the bus, you are undermining the public trust placed in you and your agency.

The efficacy of your agency depends on public trust in the biggest way, because if people don't trust their forecast lives can be lost. Why would you enter into a purely political fray like this with stakes that high? I am incredibly disappointed in you and NOAA.

The Birmingham NWS was correct to issue their forecast which, unlike President Trump's tweet, was accurate at the time. I live in the southeast and in order for the folks that DO need to evacuate to be able to do so, we don't need any more people getting on the road to evacuate during hurricanes than necessary.

Did you think it was better for the folks of Alabama to be needlessly doing hurricane preparations? There are only so many batteries and water bottles on store shelves down here, only so many hotel rooms, camp sites, only so much space on the highway. I can't believe- indeed I am outraged!- that you favor putting the people living down here further in harm's way by undermining your local forecaster's accurate message that Alabama was NOT in danger in favor of Trump's not-based-in-reality inflammatory message that Alabama would "most likely be hit (much) harder than anticipated."

Honestly, how could you fritter away public trust like this. I hope whatever goodwill you gained from the President is worth it to you. Why should anyone rely on NOAA forecasts ever again since you obviously don't base your statements on science. You should be ashamed.

<https://www.noaa.gov/news/statement-from-noaa>

Sincerely,

Megan Franklin