

Elizabeth and Jeff Walker

From: Elizabeth and Jeff Walker
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 7:57 PM
To: neil.jacobs@noaa.gov
Subject: A polite concern

Dr. Jacobs,

I am not a scientist. I am an Episcopal priest. The thing I have in common with my scientist friends is the assumption of trust. Truth is the vital and common currency of my vocation and the vocation of my friend Dr. Crain. We have known each other since Kindergarten and we are now in our withering golden years. Not always understanding each other's world, but trusting that each is not simply making things up.

Sadly, it appears that the recent politicization of the work of NOAA at the behest of President Trump has diminished that sense of trust. Will I believe what you tell me if I am back on the Texas coast where I grew up and word comes that a hurricane "might" be coming my way? A week ago I would have said yes. Now I am not sure.

I hope that this retelling of recent history will not last; that corrections will be laid out by people I need to trust. And sadly, I have not trusted this President since he ran his press secretary out to the journalists to demand that they believe his crowd size was the largest ever seen.

With regret,

The Rev'd Jeffrey H. Walker