

## Neil Jacobs - NOAA Federal

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**From:** Neil Jacobs - NOAA Federal  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 8, 2019 3:51 AM  
**To:** John A Knox  
**Subject:** Re: Consequences of NOAA action

John,

This whole thing is being blow out of proportion, and I am in a completely horrible position. I wish people would divorce themselves from politics. The NHC data said there was a 5-30% chance Alabama would see TS winds. The office in Birmingham said there was absolutely no chance of any impacts. And while everyone suspected they were likely right, an objective assessment of the data said the chance was 5-30%, not 0%. The WFO did absolutely the right thing to respond and calm fears of people who thought they were going to take a direct hit. If only the tweet was something more consistent with the low probabilities forecasted by NHC. Nobody wants to undermine the NHC guidance. We are an objective science agency. We are not taking sides on a political issue. I love this agency and what they do. Please talk to Gary Lackmann or even Kelvin. You have no idea how hard I'm fighting to keep politics out of science. We are an objective science agency, and we won't and never will base any decisions on anything other than science.

-Neil

On Sep 8, 2019, at 1:35 AM, John A Knox <(b)(6)> wrote:

Neil,

In the interests of full disclosure, I thought I should share with you what I have shared publicly on Facebook tonight with regard to the scandal occurring under your leadership at NOAA.

As my Facebook followers know, I am a native of Birmingham, Alabama. I've known the meteorologists at the NWS Birmingham since the 1970s; I attended high school with some of their children in the 1980s; I spent a spring interning at that office in 1986; and I co-dedicated my introductory meteorology textbook (now in its fifth edition) to one of the NWS meteorologists in Birmingham.

I speak only on behalf of myself.

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Bye, Neil. I really liked your work at Panasonic and appreciated that you spoke to my Data Assimilation class. But the program I am undergraduate coordinator of has Student Learning Outcomes that include ethics. Specifically, "Know and employ the principles of proper ethical conduct within meteorology and the atmospheric sciences regarding professional conduct and what the science can and cannot accurately and adequately predict [see (AMS Guidelines for Professional Conduct; Article XII of the AMS Constitution) <http://www.ametsoc.org/ab.../organizationpdfs/constitution.pdf>]" And this learning outcome is modeled on AMS recommendations for the B.S. in atmospheric sciences. I think your conduct here is a violation of that learning outcome and in particular is in support of statements by the President

that run afoul of "what the science can and cannot accurately and adequately predict." So, no more visits to my classroom, Neil.

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Sincerely,

John Knox

Dr. John A. Knox  
Professor, UGA Department of Geography  
Undergraduate Coordinator, UGA Atmospheric Sciences Program  
NWA T. Theodore Fujita Research Achievement Award, 2010  
AMS Edward N. Lorenz Teaching Excellence Award, 2020  
AMS Fellow, 2020