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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

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March 6, 2020

Dr. Neil Jacobs
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Observation and Prediction
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Jacobs:

Thank you for your efforts while performing the duties of the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere at the Department of Commerce for the last year, and congratulations on your nomination to serve in that role formally. The U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation plans to soon hold a hearing to consider your candidacy.

I appreciate your timely submission of the Committee's Nominee Questionnaire and associated documents for review prior to the hearing. Also, thank you for taking the time to meet with my staff to discuss the nomination. As discussed at that meeting, some emails and documents that were recently produced pursuant to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request raise questions about your potential involvement in or knowledge of controversial actions related to the forecasting of Hurricane Dorian in late August and early September of 2019. Substantial portions of these emails, documents, and attachments have been withheld from public review under several claimed FOIA exceptions.

Your record at the Department is material to your suitability to be confirmed in this role. Accordingly, I request that emails and attachments related to Hurricane Dorian that were sent by you, received by you, or on which you were copied be provided to the Committee prior to your nomination hearing. At minimum, please provide unredacted versions of the relevant emails found in the first four interim releases pursuant to FOIA and available here: <https://www.noaa.gov/foia/reading-room/hurricane-dorian-related-records>.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this request. Please provide a response as soon as possible, and in no event later than March 9, 2020.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member