

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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September 21, 2011

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
394 Ford House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Johnson:

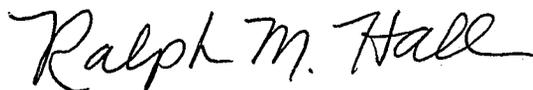
I am writing to notify you of my intention to initiate a formal Committee investigation into the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) efforts to establish a climate service. As you know, my concerns regarding the process associated with this issue originated with NOAA's initial effort in 2010 to undertake the largest reorganization in agency history without Congressional authorization.

Despite assurances from NOAA that it cannot and will not proceed with implementation of a climate service absent Congressional approval, growing indications suggest this has not been the case. Accordingly, I hope and expect to use this investigation to answer key questions in an effort to ensure timely and informed decision-making on this critical agency policy issue.

As you know, NOAA is a significant contributor to the Federal government's interagency climate research effort, which has spent \$36 billion since being established, with limited return on that investment. The current fiscal climate demands greater prioritization of agency resources, and it would be irresponsible to dramatically cut NOAA's core research activities including those aimed at protecting lives and property in order to stand up a new operational service prone to politicization and policy advocacy.

As always, I welcome your input on this important matter and look forward to working with you going forward.

Sincerely,



Ralph M. Hall
Chairman

cc:

The Honorable Hal Rogers,
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee