

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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February 16, 2017

Dr. Louis Uccellini
Director
National Weather Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Director Uccellini,

It has come to the Committee's attention that recently the National Weather Service (NWS) suffered a power outage that affected its ability to issue life-saving alerts and forecasts to the public.¹ On Monday, NWS stopped disseminating forecasts, warnings, radar and satellite imagery, and current conditions for hours, endangering American lives and property.² The products that NWS disseminates to the public daily are far reaching and have immediate impacts for millions of Americans who rely on them.

To develop a better understanding of the breadth and scope of this incident, please provide a briefing to the Committee staff. Specifically, the Committee is interested in information on how this incident occurred, the server backup procedures and implementation strategy, the response or lack thereof following the incident, and what is being done to ensure this does not happen again.

We hope that you will make every effort to provide Committee staff with a clear illustration of the preventative steps your agency is taking to ensure that incidents such as these do not occur in the future. Please contact Taylor Jordan at 202-225-6371 to schedule the briefing. Thank you for your attention to this request. I look forward to hearing from you.

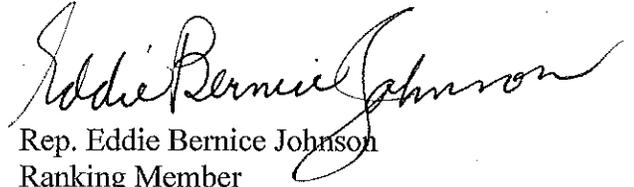
¹ Samenow, Jason, *Weather Service Suffered 'catastrophic' Outage; Website Stopped Sending Forecasts, Warnings, Capitol Weather Gang*, The Washington Post, Feb. 14, 2017, available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/capital-weather-gang/wp/2017/02/13/weather-service-suffers-catastrophic-outage-website-stops-sending-forecasts-warnings/?utm_term=.9d79dba876e9 (last visited Feb 15, 2017).

² Ibid.

Sincerely,



Rep. Lamar Smith
Chairman



Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member