

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

2321 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6301
(202) 225-6371
www.science.house.gov

March 15, 2011

Dr. Jane Lubchenco
Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Administrator Lubchenco:

On December 15, 2010 I wrote to you seeking clarification regarding the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) efforts to fundamentally change its organizational structure without Congressional authorization.¹ My inquiry was based on a quote from a senior NOAA official in a press article which stated, "We've moved in. We're waiting for the marriage certificate, but we're acting like we have a Climate Service."²

On January 3, 2010 you wrote to me and offered the assurance that "NOAA is not yet implementing a 'Climate Service,' and furthermore recognizes the need to work with Congress."³ I appreciate this affirmation of Congress' important legislative authority. As I stated in my previous letter, I look forward to working with you to strengthen NOAA science by investigating and considering the advantages of organizationally integrating and aggregating interdisciplinary science across all of NOAA.

In order to understand the current organizational structure at NOAA as it pertains to climate related activities, I am seeking your further cooperation. Please provide all records (see attachment) related to any and all transition plans, directives, or assignments associated with a climate service developed between January 1, 2010 and March 15, 2011. This should include all documents related to any changes to the roles and responsibilities associated with NOAA's organizational structure, reporting lines, review processes, program oversight, or program advocacy.

¹ Letter from Rep. Ralph Hall, Ranking Member, Committee on Science and Technology, U.S. House of Representatives, to Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Administrator, NOAA. December 15, 2010.

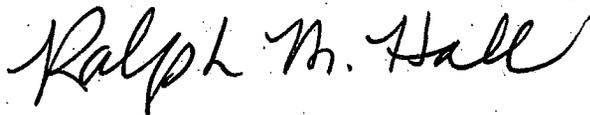
² "NOAA's budget forecast - bleak, with clouds looming over the Climate Service." *ClimateWire*. December 1, 2010.

³ Letter from Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Administrator, NOAA to Rep. Ralph Hall, Ranking Member, Committee on Science and Technology, U.S. House of Representatives. January 3, 2011.

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If you have any question related to this request, please contact Mr. Tom Hammond with the Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee staff at (202) 225-8772, or Ms. Tara Rothschild with the Energy and Environment Subcommittee staff at (202) 225-8844.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ralph M. Hall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "R" and "H".

Rep. Ralph Hall
Chairman

Cc: Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member

ATTACHMENT

1. The term "records" is to be construed in the broadest sense and shall mean any written or graphic material, however produced or reproduced, of any kind or description, consisting of the original and any non-identical copy (whether different from the original because of notes made on or attached to such copy or otherwise) and drafts and both sides thereof, whether printed or recorded electronically or magnetically or stored in any type of data bank, including, but not limited to , the following: correspondence, memoranda, records, summaries of personal conversations or interviews, minutes or records of meetings or conferences, opinions or reports of consultants, projections, statistical statements, drafts, contracts, agreements, purchase orders, invoices, confirmations, telegraphs, telexes, agendas, books, notes, pamphlets, periodicals, reports, studies, evaluations, opinions, logs, diaries, desk calendars, appointment books, tape recordings, video recordings, e-mails, voice mails, computer tapes, or other computer stored matter, magnetic tapes, microfilm, microfiche, punch cards, all other records kept by electronic, photographic, or mechanical means, charts, photographs, notebooks, drawings, plans, inter-office communications, intra-office and intra-departmental communications, transcripts, checks and canceled checks, bank statements, ledgers, books, records or statements of accounts, and papers and things similar to any of the foregoing, however denominated.
2. The terms "relating," "relate," or "regarding" as to any given subject means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, identifies, deals with, or is in any manner whatsoever pertinent to that subject, including but not limited to records concerning the preparation of other records.