

NOAA Science Advisory Board

22 April 2020

Dr. Neil Jacobs
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for
Environmental Observation and Prediction
Performing the Duties of Under Secretary of Commerce
For Oceans and Atmosphere
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 6811
14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dr. Jacobs,

SUBJECT: Opportunity for COVID-19-related Earth System monitoring and prediction efforts as a result of worldwide shelter-in-place/stay-at-home policies

On behalf of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB), we forward the attached letter on the subject topic from the SAB Climate Working Group (CWG). The SAB has discussed the letter and supports its conclusions and recommendations.

As businesses and transport networks have closed down in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a sudden drop in aerosol and carbon emissions has resulted. The nearly step-function changes in emissions create a unique opportunity to assess predictive capabilities. The CWG letter acknowledges the importance of meeting challenges associated with individual safety and health while continuing to meet NOAA's core mission requirements during this unprecedented time. The letter also recommends accumulating and learning from the valuable data resulting from *shelter-in-place/stay-at-home policies*.

The SAB recognizes and compliments NOAA on its ongoing efforts to obtain and archive relevant atmospheric data using current observing systems. We endorse NOAA's achievements in this area, which have been made possible by establishing and maintaining long-term observing systems as well as interagency and international partnerships. The SAB also recognizes NOAA has accomplished these efforts by working within the margins and not moving resources nor receiving additional resources. Curtailed activities in response to COVID-19 policies afford a material opportunity for climate science. As a result, the SAB recommends additional resources, if available, could be effectively employed to advance our understanding of earth system modeling and prediction, which is critically important to us all.

Thank you for your attention to this report and I look forward to hearing from you and NOAA at a future meeting.

Very respectfully,



John R. Kreider
Chair, NOAA Science Advisory Board

Attachment: Letter from CWG to SAB – Opportunity for Monitoring and Prediction

CC: Tim Gallaudet
Craig McLean
Louis Uccellini
Steve Volz
Michael Weiss
Adrian Mahoney
Wayne Higgins
Ben Deangelo
Joellen Russell
Everette Joseph
Eugenia Kalnay
Cynthia Decker
Caren Madsen
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