

May 2, 2018

RDML Tim Gallaudet, Ph.D., USN Ret.  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
for Oceans and Atmosphere and  
Acting Under Secretary of Commerce  
for Oceans and Atmosphere  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 6811  
14<sup>th</sup> Street & Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear RDML Gallaudet:

On behalf of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB), I am pleased to transmit to you a memo from the SAB Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG) responding to requests from the Assistant Administrators of the Office of Atmospheric Research (OAR) and the National Weather Service (NWS). The SAB approved this memo at its April 9-10, 2018 meeting.

This memo responds to the requests for advice in addressing the requirements of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (Weather Act of 2017). Their requests can be paraphrased as follows:

- *Mr. Craig McLean, OAR: EISWG needs to characterize the nature of research investments that OAR must make to move ahead. The Weather Act designates less funding for weather research than currently provided: how does OAR invest properly in this context?*
- *Dr. Louis Uccellini, NWS: We have a wide range of research that is needed and the whole community can contribute. EISWG needs to help by calling out those needs and helping in setting priorities. It's time for support for U.S. weather research programs.*

The EISWG notes that the issues raised by OAR and NWS in responding to the Weather Act of 2017 must be recognized as complex, intertwined, and ongoing, and so will not be resolved in isolation or by a single set of decisions. Addressing these issues will require ongoing attention and iterative approaches that involve continuous communication and effective coordination and collaboration among NOAA senior management, all the NOAA Line Offices, and the academic and private sector communities over a period of several years. EISWG will contribute to this process as an advisory and facilitating body, one that will serve in a variety of roles.

The SAB encourages you to forward the memo to Mr. McLean and Dr. Uccellini. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Scarlett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lynn Scarlett  
Chair, NOAA Science Advisory Board  
Co-Chief, External Affairs Officer, The Nature Conservancy

Attachment

cc: Stuart Levenbach  
Kevin Wheeler  
Craig McLean  
Louis Uccellini  
Cynthia Decker  
Mary Anne Whitcomb  
Elizabeth Akede  
Bob Winokur  
Andrea Bleistein  
John Cortinas