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From: **Neil A. Jacobs, Ph.D.** <announcement@noaa.gov>

Date: Fri, Sep 13, 2019 at 3:41 PM

Subject: Keeping NOAA's Mission in Focus

To:



September 13, 2019

I am extremely proud of the professional dedication, intellectual expertise, and personal devotion that our NOAA employees display on a daily basis. The products and services NOAA provide are built upon vast amounts of robust and objective scientific research. Scientific integrity is at the heart of NOAA's mission and culture, and is essential for maintaining the public's trust. I understand and fully support this fundamental NOAA principle.

For the past 25 years, I've had the fortunate opportunity to conduct collaborative research in weather forecasting and modeling, including several NOAA projects that involved multiple labs and operational centers. I have always been proud of NOAA and its core values, and it has been an honor to lead this organization. Since I have come to NOAA, I've gained an even broader understanding of the products and services created across this agency and a deeper appreciation for the people who work here.

During hurricane Dorian, our Weather Forecast Offices, including Birmingham and the National Hurricane Center, did their utmost to produce accurate and timely weather forecasts to inform the general public and ensure public safety. Hurricane Dorian was a persistent, challenging, and historic storm, and I am humbled by the tireless effort and countless hours spent by the hardworking forecasters around the country, who are tasked with the challenge of communicating risk to emergency managers and the general public.

We are in the peak of hurricane season, and more storms will likely form, some of which may potentially threaten landfall. Potential Tropical Cyclone Nine is forecast to strengthen into a named storm off the southeast coast over the next few days. The American people are depending on our agency. There is no question in my mind that we will continue to provide expert analyses and predictions to keep Americans safe, and that all our line and staff offices will support the American public during these events. Our work saves lives.

Beginning tomorrow, I will be visiting our forecast offices and other NOAA facilities around the country to hear from you directly. Our team is committed to upholding scientific integrity, which

together with public service, makes our agency a uniquely wonderful and impactful place to work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Neil A. Jacobs', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Neil A. Jacobs, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction
Performing the duties of Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere