

October 25, 2017

The Honorable John Thune, Chairman
The Honorable Bill Nelson, Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Thune, Nelson and Members of the Committee,

We the undersigned endorse the nomination of Barry Lee Myers for the NOAA Administrator position. We believe he possesses the strategic vision and executive leadership skills to strengthen NOAA's critical contributions to the Nation.

For almost twenty-five (25) years, we have worked with Mr. Myers during our tenures as Directors of the National Weather Service (NWS) and we have worked with him in other capacities for over thirty (30) years. We have found him to be open to, and have a keen sense for, the great potential of science and technology to benefit and strengthen their impact on society. Furthermore, he has been a strong advocate for the synergies that could be gained from partnerships among the public, private, and academic sectors. He has played a leading role, working with us directly, and also collaboratively through the American Meteorological Society, in forging a strong and productive partnership among the weather industry, the research community, and NWS in support of the needs of the Nation, not just the sector in which he worked. His efforts were always focused on capitalizing on science, technology, and people to improve the safety of Americans when hurricanes, tornadoes and other severe weather threaten.

We recognize, as does he, the mission of NOAA spans considerably more than just NWS – including oceans, coasts, fisheries and climate. Through our experience working with Mr. Myers, we have seen a person capable of leading a large enterprise underpinned by complex science and technologies required to meet demanding mission needs. We have seen a leader who assembles, challenges, inspires, and listens to a team with the necessary skill sets to produce strong and successful results. His success at AccuWeather, a science and technology based company, speaks for itself.

At a time when the impacts of adverse weather and climate, and concerns over the world's environment and the Nation's fisheries are significant; competing budget needs are stressing government agencies; and the American people are demanding more efficiency from their federal government, we know Mr. Myers brings the kind of needed leadership, vision, business acumen, organizational management,

and fierce determination to lead NOAA and advance its critical contributions to the Nation.

This is a unique opportunity for the Nation. We urge his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Signatories.

Elbert (Joe) Friday, Jr., Ph.D.
Colonel, USAF (Ret)
Director, NWS 1988-1997
Director, NOAA Research 1997 - 1998
Director, Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate, National Academy of Sciences 1998-2003
Professor Emeritus, The University of Oklahoma
Past President, Honorary Member, and Fellow of the American Meteorological Society

John J. (Jack) Kelly
Brig Gen, USAF (ret.)
Director, NWS 1998-2004
Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce, Oceans and Atmosphere, 2004-2007

David L. Johnson
Brig Gen, USAF (ret.)
Director, NWS 2004-2007

John L. (Jack) Hayes, Ph.D.
Colonel USAF (ret.)
Director, NWS 2007-2012
Deputy Director, NOAA Research 2005-2006
Deputy Director, National Ocean Service 2004-2005