

**Center for Biological Diversity * Climate Hawks Vote * Defenders of Wildlife * Earthjustice
Endangered Species Coalition * Friends of the Earth * Hip Hop Caucus
League of Conservation Voters * Marine Conservation Institute
Natural Resources Defense Council * Sierra Club**

March 19, 2018

Dear Senator,

We are writing to express our opposition to the nomination of Barry Myers, the former chief executive of AccuWeather, to become the next Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

In advance of Mr. Myers's hearing before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation on November 29, 2017, numerous public interest groups expressed concerns about this nomination and urged the Committee to vet Mr. Myers thoroughly.

We sent a [letter](#) raising our concerns about his lack of scientific credentials and experience with many critical parts of NOAA's mission relating to oceans and coasts; his previous efforts to privatize many functions of the National Weather Service (NWS), which would adversely affect its vital public safety mission; and his personal and family financial conflicts of interest with the work of NWS and NOAA.

Unfortunately, Mr. Myers has not satisfied these concerns.

Since the hearing, three prominent ethics experts¹, including the former director of the United States Office of Government Ethics, have evaluated the unique situation his appointment to NOAA would create, and have found that unless he agrees to an expansive recusal from much of the work of the agency, profound and unprecedented conflicts of interest would exist. As NOAA administrator, Mr. Myers would make many decisions that could directly or indirectly affect Accuweather, which is his life's work and potentially the source of his future livelihood.

Mr. Myers has not agreed to such an expansive recusal. In light of this refusal, we cannot be confident that, if confirmed, he would use his public office to advance the important science, conservation, and public safety mission of the agency, rather than that of the family business.

¹ [Letter](#) from Walter M. Shaub, Jr., Senior Director, Ethics, Campaign Legal Center to Senators Mitch McConnell, Charles Shumer, John Thune and Bill Nelson, Jan. 7, 2018; [Letter](#) from Noah Bookbinder, Executive Director, Center for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington to Senators Mitch McConnell, Charles Shumer, John Thune and Bill Nelson, Jan. 17, 2018; [Letter](#) from Robert Weissman, President, Public Citizen, to Senators, Dec. 6, 2017.

As the nation grapples with the catastrophic impacts of last year's hurricane season, it also seems particularly unwise to confirm a candidate for NOAA Administrator who has no government experience, and who lacks the scientific credentials held by nearly every other individual who has ever held the post of Administrator.

For these reason, we respectfully request that you vote against confirming Mr. Myers as NOAA Administrator.

Sincerely,

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