Your Name

Your Street Address

Your City, State + Zip

Your email address (if desired)

DATE

Your Congress Member

Their Office Street Address

Washington, DC (zip)

{You can find this at <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>}

**To: House & Senate Appropriations Committees**

**Subject:** STOP Defunding NOAA—28 People Died on May 16

Dear (Congress member),

On **Friday, May 16, 2025**, tornadoes killed at least 28 people across Kentucky, Missouri, and Virginia. The region hit hardest—eastern Kentucky—relied on a National Weather Service office that was operating with a **31% staffing shortage** because of federal cuts.

Let me be clear:  
 **People died because of these federal cuts.**

You must immediately reverse course.  
STOP defunding NOAA and the National Weather Service.  
START taxing the ultra-wealthy and billion-dollar corporations who have hoarded record profits while our emergency systems fall apart.

If you’re looking for where to cut, start with corporate subsidies—not public safety.  
I’m demanding a federal budget that reflects actual American values—where lives matter more than lobbyists. This should not be a partisan issue, but a human one.

We are watching.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Your Name

Your Street Address

Your City, State + Zip

Your email address (if desired)

DATE

Laura Grimm, Administrator

NOAA/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 5128

Washington, DC 20230

**To: NOAA Administrator Laura Grimm  
Subject:** 28 Americans Died - This Is Your Line in the Sand

Dear Administrator Spinrad,  
On **May 16, 2025**, 28 people lost their lives in a tornado outbreak that exposed what happens when NOAA is gutted from the inside.

The Jackson, KY NWS office—serving the epicenter of the disaster—was **31% understaffed** because of federal buyouts and a refusal to fund critical positions. The blood is on their hands. But now, **you have a choice**.

You can protect your job, or you can protect the mission.  
 **Please speak out. Loudly. Publicly. Now.**

The American people will stand with you—but only if you show the courage to call out what’s killing us: decades of austerity, deregulation, and tax breaks for the rich while the rest of us are left to weather the storm—literally.

We need NOAA leaders who fight like lives depend on it. Because they do.

Respectfully,

[Your Name]

Your Name

Your Street Address

Your City, State + Zip

DATE

Donald Trump

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

Washington, DC 20500

**Subject:** Your Cuts to NOAA Cost 28 Lives—This Is on You

Dear President Trump,

On **May 16, 2025**, 28 Americans died in tornadoes that ripped through Kentucky, Missouri, and Virginia. The National Weather Service office responsible for issuing alerts in the hardest-hit region—Jackson, Kentucky—was operating with a **31% staffing shortage** due to cuts enacted under your administration.

This wasn’t a natural disaster. It was a **government failure**—one you engineered through reckless budget reductions, forced buyouts, and a total disregard for scientific agencies like NOAA.

Let me be clear: **You weakened the very systems that protect American lives.**

And for what? So billionaires could get bigger tax breaks? So corporations could dodge responsibility while ordinary people lost their homes, their families, and their lives?

We are DONE watching public safety be sacrificed on the altar of greed and political showmanship.  
We DEMAND:

* Full restoration of NOAA and NWS funding
* Immediate rehiring of critical staff
* Emergency climate infrastructure investment paid for by taxing the ultra-wealthy

You say you want to “make America great again”? Then start by protecting the people who live here. Stop gutting the systems that hold this country together.  
 We deserve better than this.

Furious and fed up,

[your name]

Your Name

Your Street Address

Your City, State + Zip

DATE

Speaker Mike Johnson

521 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

**Subject:** Stop Sacrificing American Lives to Please Billionaires

Dear Speaker Johnson,

On **May 16, 2025**, tornadoes tore across Kentucky, Missouri, and Virginia—killing at least **28 Americans**. The National Weather Service office responsible for warning the hardest-hit area was operating with a **31% staffing shortage** due to reckless federal budget cuts.

That staffing crisis wasn’t random. It’s the result of *your* leadership and your chamber’s repeated efforts to defund science, dismantle public infrastructure, and redirect resources toward the ultra-wealthy while everyday people are left to fend for themselves.

You speak often about values. So here’s a value worth standing for: **keeping Americans alive**.

We demand that you:

* Restore full funding for NOAA and the National Weather Service
* Rehire lost personnel and rebuild our national forecasting infrastructure
* Tax billionaires and corporations to pay for it—not working families

You can’t serve both God and greed. Choose wisely.  
Lives depend on it.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Your Name

Your Street Address

Your City, State + Zip

DATE

Steve Scalise

266 Cannon HOB

Washington, DC 20515

**Subject:** Stop Sacrificing American Lives to Please Billionaires

Dear Majority Leader Scalise,

On **May 16, 2025**, tornadoes killed 28 people across three states—while the NWS office responsible for warning them sat **31% understaffed**. Those lives were lost under a system your party has spent years undermining in the name of “fiscal responsibility.”

Let’s call it what it is: **deliberate negligence**.

You and your colleagues have spent more time protecting tax loopholes for billionaires than you have protecting human life. And the result? Americans are dying in storms they could have survived—with functioning alert systems and fully staffed meteorological offices.

We demand:

* Immediate reinstatement of NOAA/NWS funding
* Emergency rehiring of laid-off weather professionals
* Tax justice—make the ultra-wealthy pay their fair share for public safety

This isn’t politics. This is life and death. And if you can’t choose people over profits, **you don’t belong in leadership**.

Signed,

[Your Name}

Your Name

Your Street Address

Your City, State + Zip

DATE

John Thune

United States Senate SD-511

Washington, DC 20510

**Subject:** 28 Dead Americans. Your Budget Cuts Helped Kill Them.

Dear Majority Leader Thune,

On **May 16, 2025**, 28 Americans were killed in a tornado outbreak. The National Weather Service office in Jackson, KY—the epicenter of the devastation—was **31% understaffed** due to budget cuts made under your watch.

These weren’t unavoidable deaths. They were the direct consequence of gutting public safety programs to serve the donor class.

You lead the Senate. You have the power to stop this. So here’s what I’m demanding:

* End the war on science
* Fully fund NOAA and the National Weather Service
* Pass legislation that taxes the billionaire class to pay for climate readiness and emergency preparedness

Every moment you delay puts more lives at risk. Do your job—or step aside for someone who will.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]