

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 2, 2025

Laura Grimm
Acting Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Acting Administrator Grimm:

We write to strongly urge you to reconsider the decision to terminate funding contracts that established the Center for Collaborative Heat Monitoring and the Center for Heat Resilient Communities as National Integrated Heat Health Information System (NIHHIS) Centers of Excellence to collect localized data on extreme heat to help communities across the nation develop mitigation strategies and resilience planning. We are deeply concerned that this grant termination and others that fund sound climate science will have a detrimental effect on our constituents in North Carolina, California, and across the country.

Extreme heat kills more Americans each year than any other weather-related event. Just as communities across the country have developed plans to respond to disasters like hurricanes, wildfires, and earthquakes, local and regional policymakers across the nation are making decisions about where to invest resources to improve their response to extreme heat.

In 2024, NOAA made a landmark investment to address extreme heat by establishing two National Integrated Heat Health Information System (NIHHIS) Centers of Excellence; The Center for Collaborative Heat Monitoring, based at the Museum of Life and Science in Durham, NC, and the Center for Heat Resilient Communities, led by the Luskin Center for Innovation at the University of California – Los Angeles (UCLA) in Los Angeles, CA.

These Centers of Excellence represent an exceptionally sound use of federal dollars to analyze and address the local impacts of extreme heat. Each year, extreme heat results in millions of dollars in infrastructure damage and billions of dollars in lost productivity. Heat affects the farmers who grow and harvest the food that feeds America, the construction workers who build our cities, roads, and homes, as well as the truck drivers, warehouse workers, and manufacturers who are the engine of the modern American economy. Heat impacts and endangers America's

energy system – putting significant strain on overburdened energy infrastructure during periods of high heat.

Extreme heat is a nonpartisan issue that affects all Americans. Rising summer temperatures put everyone at higher risk of heat-related illness or death. Whether you are living in an urban heat island, causing you to be more prone to the effects of extreme heat, or if you are living in a rural community that with fewer resources to address these problems, we must work together to develop comprehensive and community-oriented plans to mitigate the ever-compounding issues that arise from extreme heat.

We urge you to immediately reverse this cancellation and restore the full \$4.55 million in funding for the NIHHS Centers of Excellence and to honor the obligations made to protect Americans from the dangerous effects of extreme heat.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress