

Open Letter to NOAA, EPA Scientists

Published in the Fort Collins Coloradoan on April 14, 2017

On Earth Day, April 22, there will be a March for Science nationwide and in Fort Collins, followed by a national People's Climate March on April 29. These will be two excellent opportunities to express appreciation and solidarity with scientists, who sustain us through their work.

In the newly proposed federal budget, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are being targeted for massive cuts to jobs, grants and services that preserve our public health, safety and security, economy and environment. We can express support for NOAA and EPA scientists by calling members of Congress to request full funding of these agencies in the current and future budget cycles.

Dear NOAA and EPA scientists,

We thank you for your dedicated service to the public and the environment. We need and value the work you do to:

- Provide essential satellite data to the National Weather Service (NWS) so we can have life-saving forecasts of blizzards, severe thunderstorms, high winds, heat waves, cold fronts, hurricanes and tornadoes.
- Do air quality monitoring of ozone levels which can be used to preserve our public health along the high traffic and industrial zones of Colorado's Front Range.
- Monitor industry compliance with pollution regulations, which preserve our environment and public health.
- Consult with workers to clean up Colorado's toxic sites, such as Rocky Flats and abandoned mines.
- Provide data on threats and incidents of pollution to our lakes and streams, in order to preserve Colorado's sport fishing and recreation.
- Provide water quality data to ensure clean public drinking and irrigation water for ranching and farming.
- Alert us to increasingly high seasonal temperatures, which can lead to wildfires and floods.
- Give notice of the increasing accumulation of carbon emissions in our atmosphere, so we can act to preserve a livable climate.

We appreciate the work you do for the people of Colorado and the nation.

With gratitude,

Fort Collins Sustainability Group, Citizens Climate Lobby – Colorado, Community for Sustainable Energy, 350 Colorado, Weld Air and Water, Fort Collins for Progress, San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council