



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

Washington, D.C. 20230

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

December 15, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
Chairman  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of December 1, 2015. As we have stated in previous letters, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”) continues to work with the Committee to provide information necessary to its oversight responsibilities.

With this letter, NOAA is providing documents responsive to the Committee’s December 1 request for “documents and communications by NOAA officials, with the exception of scientists acting in their official capacity, referring or relating to the Karl study, including but not limited to, any official in the Office of the Administrator, Office of Communications and External Affairs, Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, and the Office of the Chief Information Officer from January 1, 2014 to present.” These documents are Bates stamped 00001-00159. We are continuing to search for additional documents that may be responsive to this request. NOAA does not waive any confidentiality interests in these documents or similar documents sought in other circumstances.

For the Committee’s convenience, NOAA would again like to provide links to the data and methodology used in the study by Thomas Karl, *et al.*, which provide the Committee the tools it needs to commission its own scientific assessment. The data related to the study, including the methods used to correct previous analyses of these data, were made publicly available in early June 2015 via a link from the news article referenced in the letter:

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/news/recent-global-surface-warming-hiatus>. The Supplementary Material, which was published with the *Science* article and which sets forth the methodology used in the study and includes links to the data used in the study, can be found here:

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/suppl/2015/06/03/science.aaa5632.DC1/Karl-SM.pdf>. The Extended Reconstructed Sea Surface Temperature (ERSST) version 4 can be accessed here:

<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/data-access/marineocean-data/extended-reconstructed-sea-surface-temperature-ersst-v4>. The raw data used to generate the ERSST version 4 are archived in the International Comprehensive Ocean Atmosphere Dataset: <http://icoads.noaa.gov/>, which preserves measurements from a variety of ocean-based platforms from 1662 to the present. The land surface air temperature data cited in the study is drawn from the International Surface Temperature Initiative (ISTI): <http://www.surfacetemperatures.org/databank>.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at 202-482-5448.



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Sincerely,



Coby Dolan  
Director of Legislative and  
Intergovernmental Affairs

Encl.

cc: The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson