

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 11, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Chairman and CEO
Cantor Fitzgerald, L.P.
110 East 59th Street
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr. Lutnick:

We write to express concern about ongoing efforts to drastically reduce the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) workforce and budget. These actions have severe consequences for Rhode Island and the nation, undermining NOAA's ability to fulfill its vital mission of safeguarding our economy, environment, and national security.

NOAA services play a critical role in coastal and marine research, fisheries management, weather forecasting, and climate monitoring. These services are particularly important in Rhode Island, where the blue economy is a major driver of jobs and economic growth. Further, NOAA's aviation weather services are critical for air travel safety, and its oceanographic research supports the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard in ensuring maritime security, detecting underwater threats, and advancing strategic ocean intelligence.

We are alarmed by recent reports that staffers from the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) have been given access to NOAA's offices and that NOAA employees have been told to expect a 50% reduction in staff and budget cuts of 30%. If carried out, these threats will have real impacts for our constituents – undermining NOAA's ability to provide accurate, timely, and free weather forecasts, putting lives at risk during hurricanes and other severe weather events, and have ripple effects on national defense, emergency response, and economic stability.

During your January 29, 2025, nomination hearing before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, when asked if you agreed about a Project 2025 proposal suggesting NOAA should be dismantled, many of its functions eliminated, sent to other agencies, privatized, or placed under the control of states and territories, you responded with a simple: "No." However, when asked for the record whether NOAA should be dismantled, you wrote: "It is premature to discuss any specific recommendations."

In order to fully understand your plans and objectives if confirmed as Secretary of Commerce, we ask that you clarify your response to these critical questions and how, if confirmed as Secretary, you would uphold NOAA's congressionally-mandated service.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your prompt response.

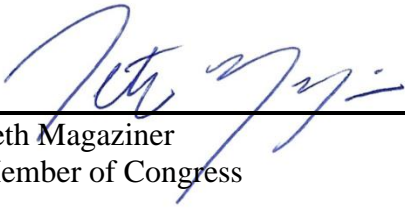
Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress