

TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

As you may have seen in recent news reports, the Trump administration intends to dismantle the National Science Foundation's National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), one of the United States' leading weather and climate research institutions. Russell Vought, director of the White House Office of Management and Budget told USA TODAY, "The National Science Foundation will be breaking up the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado."

According to that reporting, the Trump administration is apparently set to begin dissolving NCAR immediately, potentially closing the center's main laboratory in Boulder, Colorado. The research done at NCAR influences every piece of weather and climate prediction in the entire United States, not just in Colorado. Dismantling NCAR would not only undermine scientific research, it would leave people across the nation less prepared for the dangers of weather events worsened by climate change.

Local communities, such as ours, understand the importance of the work done at NCAR at local, regional, and national levels. We are seeing the impacts of climate change on a daily basis: the fires in Superior that impacted tens of thousands of peoples and cost billions in damage, the ongoing drought throughout over half of the state that affects farmers to skiers and everyone in between, and most recently, a concerningly dry winter that has our rivers running between 50-75% of normal. These are all direct impacts of worsening climate change and in order to mitigate the effects, research done by credible scientists is of utmost importance. Attacking NCAR and the research that they do is a mistake that will cost families, businesses, and our country immeasurable grievances.

As members of the committee that oversees the National Science Foundation, you have the power to stop this. We urge you to take a stand. Stop the deliberate dissolution of NCAR, and hold the line against these relentless attacks on science that serves business interests, national security, and the public good.

Sincerely,

Members of the Commerce City Environmental Policy & Innovation Commission,

Frederick Alfred

Sara Peppers

Et al.