

Representative Lamar Smith  
Chair  
Science, Space and Technology Committee  
House of Representatives  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
USA

17 September 2017

Dear Representative Smith,

I am writing to draw your attention to an announcement today that a British newspaper article to which you have previously referred has officially been ruled to be inaccurate and misleading.

On 14 February 2017, you wrote a letter, as Chair of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology, to Benjamin Friedman, the then Acting Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), about an academic paper by Dr Thomas Karl and co-authors at NOAA, which was published in the journal 'Science' in June 2015. The third paragraph of your letter stated:

"In recent weeks, further information has come to light that exposes the internal conflicts related to this NOAA study. Dr. John Bates, a recently-retired principal scientist at NOAA who created science integrity principles at the agency, raised public concerns that the Karl study ignored NOAA standards, was rushed to publication, and was not free from political bias."

The footnote to this claim in your letter referenced the online version of an article by David Rose that was published in 'The Mail on Sunday' newspaper on 5 February 2017. I submitted a complaint about that article to the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO), the regulator that has been set up by some of the UK's newspapers, including 'The Mail on Sunday'. After a lengthy investigation, IPSO has decided to uphold my complaint and forced 'The Mail on Sunday' to today publish a 647-word adverse adjudication, outlining the significant inaccuracies in the article. The adjudication indicates that Mr Rose's article misrepresented both the content and significance of views expressed by Dr Bates. In doing so, the newspaper breached Clause 1 (i) of the Editors' Code of Practice, which states: "The Press must take care not to publish inaccurate, misleading or distorted information or images, including headlines not supported by the text".

I have enclosed a copy of the IPSO decision and adjudication, for your reference. I am sure that you will want to set the record straight, and will write to Acting Administrator Friedman to inform him that your letter of 14 February was based on a fake news story.

**LSE**  
**Houghton Street**  
**London WC2A 2AE**

**+44 (0)20 7107 5027**  
**+44 (0)20 7107 5440**

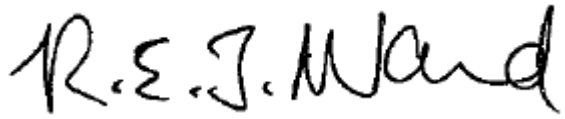
**[gri@lse.ac.uk](mailto:gri@lse.ac.uk)**

**[lse.ac.uk/  
granthaminstitute](http://lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute)**

**Chair:**  
**Professor Lord Stern  
of Brentford**

I am copying this letter to Representative Johnson, the Democrat Ranking Member on the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R.E.J. Ward". The letters are cursive and connected, with a large, prominent 'W' at the end.

Bob Ward  
Policy and Communications Director  
Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment  
London School of Economics and Political Science

Tel. +44 (0) 7811-320346  
Email [r.e.ward@lse.ac.uk](mailto:r.e.ward@lse.ac.uk)