U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Office of the Chief Information Officer
High Performance Computing and Communications

Via FOIAonline

Mr. Ryan Mulvey
Cause of Action Institute
1875 Eye St. NW Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006

Re: Request No. DOC-NOAA-2018-000428

Dear Mr. Mulvey:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request which was perfected in FOIAonline on December 11, 2017. You requested:

1. All weekly reports, charts, and transmittal e-mails that identify "high visibility" or otherwise "sensitive" FOIA requests. The time period for this item of the request is December 2015 to the present. 2. All memoranda, guidelines, procedures, processing metrics, or communications concerning any type of "sensitive review," or handling of "high visibility" FOIA requests, including politically-sensitive requests or those submitted by news-media requesters. The scope of this item includes records defining or describing "high visibility" requests or pertaining to the justification and/or genesis of the weekly reports sought in Item One. The time period for this item of the request is January 2010 to the present. 3. All communications (including case summaries, memoranda, guidelines, or procedures) concerning the tracking of "transition cases," i.e., FOIA requests pertaining to the incoming Trump Administration. The scope of this item includes records of correspondence between and amongst NOAA and (1) the Department of Commerce, (2) the Executive Office of the President (including the Office of the White House Counsel), (3) the Republican National Committee, or (4) Donald Trump's presidential transition team. The time period for this item of the request is November 9, 2016 to the present. 4. All communications between NOAA and the Department of Commerce Office of the Inspector General concerning audits, investigations, inspections, evaluations, or inquiries into the involvement of non-career officials in the FOIA process (e.g., reviewing or approving proposed FOIA productions, etc.). The time periods for this item of the request are (1) August 23, 2010 to September 21, 2010 and (2) June 23, 2015 to August 14, 2015. * * * Please see the attached PDF for a complete description of CoA Institute's FOIA request.

We have located 109 files, responsive to your FOIA request. These files are the background files and attachments to the weekly reports. You are granted full access to these records, and a copy is enclosed. We continue to process your request, and will provide additional interim releases as responsive records are located and processed for production to you.

There will be no charge for processing this FOIA request.

Although we do not consider this to be a denial of your FOIA request, you have the right to file an administrative appeal if you are not satisfied with our response to your request. All appeals should include a statement of the reasons why you believe the FOIA response was not satisfactory. An appeal based on documents in this release must be received within 90 calendar days of the date of this response letter at the following address:

Assistant General Counsel for Litigation, Employment, and Oversight
U.S. Department of Commerce
Room 5896
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

An appeal may also be sent by e-mail to FOIAAppeals@doc.gov, or by FOIAonline at https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home#.

For your appeal to be complete, it must include the following items:

- a copy of the original FOIA request,
- our response to your FOIA request,
- "Freedom of Information Act Appeal" must appear on your appeal letter. It should also be written on your envelope or e-mail subject line.

FOIA appeals posted to the e-mail box, FOIAonline, or Office after normal business hours will be deemed received on the next business day. If the 90th calendar day for submitting an appeal falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal public holiday, an appeal received by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, the next business day will be deemed timely.

FOIA grants requesters the right to challenge an agency's final action in federal court. Before doing so, an adjudication of an administrative appeal is ordinarily required.

The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), an office created within the National Archives and Records Administration, offers free mediation services to FOIA requesters. They may be contacted in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
Room 2510
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

Email: ogis@nara.gov

Phone: 301-837-1996
Fax: 301-837-0348
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Mark Graff, at mark.graff@noaa.gov, or by phone, at 301-628-5658, or the NOAA FOIA Public Liaison, Robert Swisher, at 301-628-5755.

Sincerely,

Mark H. Graff
NOAA FOIA Officer
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration