

Statement of Taylor Jordan
Nominee for Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation
and Prediction
Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation
July 9, 2025

Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am honored to be nominated for the position of Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction by President Trump, and I also want to thank Secretary Lutnick for his support of my nomination. If I have the honor of being confirmed, I look forward to working with all of you on the important work performed by NOAA in the areas of observation, data, and forecasting.

I would also like to thank and recognize my fiancée Minsu Crowder-Han for being with me here today, and my family watching from Texas: my mother Cindy Jordan and her husband Scott Wright, as well as my father Gene Jordan, brother Chris Jordan and his family.

As a born and raised Texan, I have had a lifelong fascination with weather. I grew up in Longview in East Texas, which has seen its fair share of severe weather impacts: tornados, straight-line winds, hail, and lightning strikes. As a kid, every time the sirens would go off for a potential tornado, my father would first go outside and look up at the sky—a uniquely Texan behavior – while I would head to my parent’s closet to take shelter.

Collectively, I have had the privilege of working on NOAA issues for the last 14 years, and I have worked on these issues from three distinct vantage points: (1) in Congress, (2) at NOAA, and (3) in the private sector.

After graduating from the University of North Texas, I was fortunate enough to have an internship in DC for the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, where I worked first under Chairman Ralph Hall and then Chairman Lamar Smith. It was there, on the Committee, where I learned about NOAA’s mission and how their weather forecasting resulted in those sirens I always heard growing up – the forecast for those severe storms started with NOAA.

I spent seven years on the House Science Committee, working on issues related to NOAA and other civil science agencies. I was the lead author for the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act, also known as the Weather Act. That bill was the first major piece of weather-related legislation in decades and gave NOAA tools to help it better achieve its mission of protecting lives and property. Many of the Weather Act's authorizations are still relevant today, and if I am honored to be confirmed, I look forward to working with this Committee to reauthorize this important piece of legislation.

I also had the privilege of serving as a senior policy advisor to the NOAA Administrator from 2018-2020. In this role, I oversaw implementation of the Weather Act, and worked closely with NOAA's leadership and staff to provide accurate and timely weather forecasts. I also worked with leadership and NOAA line offices to help manage multi-billion dollar programs and acquisitions across the agency.

Since 2021, I have worked in the private sector to advocate for programs and policies that improve NOAA's mission and create meaningful partnerships. I have worked with private companies that provide NOAA with valuable weather data, contractors that provide technical and expert support services, scientists that contribute cutting-edge knowledge to our understanding of the earth, and many others that support NOAA in various ways.

Thanks to these experiences, I have developed a deep appreciation for NOAA's mission and its life-saving information. NOAA operates in every state, forecasts for every location, and provides important and unique information across the country every day. NOAA achieves this through extensive observing networks and infrastructure, dedicated scientists and forecasters, and public-private partnerships. NOAA relies on expertise from our robust American science and technology ecosystem – from private companies, contractors, academia, non-profits, and state, local, and tribal partners.

If confirmed, it would be a tremendous honor to help lead such a distinguished organization of scientists, engineers, forecasters and uniformed officers. I will also work closely with Members of this Committee to ensure NOAA continues to provide accurate and timely weather forecasting to protect lives and property, and safeguard the national economy.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Cantwell, and Members of the Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.