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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Wed 11/29/2017 5:42:54 PM
Subject: NOAA nominee says he won't suppress climate work

By Emily Holden

11/29/2017 12:41 PM EDT

President Donald Trump's nominee to run the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said at his confirmation hearing today he believed that human activities were affecting the climate, and he pledged not to suppress climate research or discriminate against climate scientists.

AccuWeather CEO Barry Myers, who holds business and law degrees but has drawn criticism because he lacks a scientific background, told Sen. [Ed Markey](#) (D-Mass.) at a Commerce Committee hearing he agrees with the findings of the 13-agency National Climate Assessment, which deems it highly likely that human activity is a dominant cause of rising temperatures.

"I was on the graduate faculty at Penn State for many years, I know what quality research looks like, I know what peer-reviewed research looks like, and scientists should be free to operate in that kind of environment," he said. "They need to subject their research, obviously, to peer review so that other scientists can weigh in on it, but once that process is completed that information should be made available to all."

He told Markey he would support climate change research as the budget allows, and would not reassign scientists or keep them from speaking publicly "based upon their science conclusions."

Myers also acknowledged that his agency could see funding cuts, which he said could be "challenging."

And he agreed that sea-level rise is a pressing issue for many coastal communities.

WHAT'S NEXT: The Senate Commerce Committee has not yet scheduled a vote on the nomination.

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