

LLOYD DOGGETT
37TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TAX POLICY

COMMITTEE ON
THE BUDGET

JOINT COMMITTEE ON
TAXATION



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

September 15, 2025

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Secretary Howard Lutnick
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

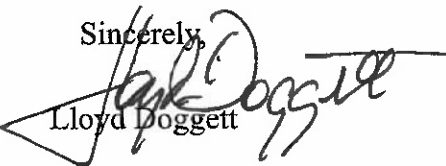
I received your reply today to my numerous requests (attached) for records critical to understanding what happened before and during the July 4 Central Texas Floods. This reply comes over ten weeks since the floods devastated our community, killing over 130 people. I am grateful for the opportunity to have spoken with National Weather Service (NWS) Director Ken Graham on July 11, when he said then that the NWS Chat logs, call logs, shift logs, radar archives, and communications with the River Forecast Center were “easy” to produce. However, you provided none of the requested logs. If there is nothing to hide, why hide these documents?

Instead, you provided your own conclusions, without evidence, demonstrating whether or not critical understaffing impacted operations. You state that the weather forecasting offices “were able to successfully provide decision support services to local partners, including those in the emergency management community.” Outreach can hardly be called successful if the intended recipient, like the Kerr County emergency manager, was not reached. I have reason to question this claim unless it is backed by NWS Chat and call logs that show successful attempts at contacting emergency managers and other local leaders, including camp directors.

Your response additionally fails to answer my specific questions, including the following:

- What other contacts were made to leaders other than emergency managers?
- Was the level of contact between NWS and local media officials consistent with previous disasters, such as the 2015 Wimberley Memorial Day Flood?
- Was the July 4 Travis County Flash Flood Watch allowed to expire at 7:00pm before a Flash Flood Emergency was declared at 12:41am?
- Was the High-Resolution Rapid Refresh model, which on July 3 suggested the possibility of as much as 20 inches of rainfall, included in the models used to inform forecasts, warnings, and public language?

I reiterate my request for all NWS Chat logs, all call logs, all radar archives, all shift logs, and all communications with the River Forecast Center from NWS Austin/San Antonio from July 2 to July 5, in addition to the above questions. These materials and specific answers are necessary for Congressional oversight and accountability following this disaster.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Doggett

CC:

Laura Grimm

Chief of Staff performing the duties of Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and
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