

Marc Itzkowitz

From: Marc Itzkowitz
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 12:33 PM
To: reif@mit.edu
Cc: andrew.freedman@washpost.com; kayla.epstein@washpost.com; jason.samenow@washpost.com; julie.roberts@noaa.gov; neil.jacobs@noaa.gov; colby.itzkowitz@washpost.com; aaron.blake@washpost.com; sr-bmx.webmaster@noaa.gov; craig.mclean@noaa.gov
Subject: I hope MIT will defend science..

Dear MIT President Reif,

I have always been a fan of yours for your integrity and straightforward approach to even the most controversial of matters since I first worked for you 33 years ago as a Freshman at MIT. I hope, to whatever extent possible, MIT will defend against the attacks on science not only broadly by the current administration but by the leadership of the NOAA just last week (cc'd on this email for full transparency).

I was disgusted to see the politicizing of science that created needless panic just to stroke the ego of someone's boss and to shame hardworking regional scientists in Birmingham. I was heartened to see Dr. Craig McLean speak truth-to-power to investigate this large ethical lapse in the the NOAA and hope MIT can make sure that Mr. McLean can proceed unimpeded (and has all the tools he needs) to get the job done. I also hope we can give Mr. McLean the backing he needs to call people out directly (the only way to get the message heard by our President is to, if the data warrants, tarnish the "Trump" brand with the truth) and not obfuscate around the point with vague references to "certain leaders", etc.... The only brands i care about are "science" and the United States. Any other brand is irrelevant and often dangerous.

And should Mr. McLean issue a statement where he "wants to spend more time with his family" I hope we can get the scientific community to make sure that he is made financially whole with other gainful employment as he has a distinguished career of public service and scientific contributions.

Thank you for hearing me out and for all the help you can provide.

- Marc Itzkowitz
MIT Class of 1989