

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 10, 2014

Dr. Kathryn Sullivan  
Acting Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
United States Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Room 5128  
Washington, DC 20230

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Dear Dr. Sullivan:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) National Logistics Support Center (NLSC) and National Reconditioning Center (NRC) in Kansas City, Missouri serve key roles in protecting the lives and property of Americans from damage during severe weather events. The upcoming closure of the Bannister Federal Complex in Kansas City, Missouri, is forcing both to relocate. I write to express my strongest support for both to remain in Kansas City.

It is my understanding that NOAA is currently undertaking a business case analysis regarding where to relocate these two centers and hopes to complete the analysis by the spring of 2014. I am confident the analysis will determine that keeping the two centers in the Kansas City area makes the most fiscal sense and is the strategically best choice for the NWS and its employees.

Sustaining the operations of the NLSC and NRC in the Kansas City area provides for minimum disruption for the two centers' employees and operations. First, Kansas City's central location and superb access to transportation modes makes it an ideal fit for NLSC and NRS operations. Further, Kansas City ranks among the most affordable major markets to live and work in across the nation, making it an ideal location for NWS employees. Finally, Kansas City's highly educated workforce provides the two NWS centers access to trained, skilled employees to continue their critical missions.

The NLSC and NRC in Kansas City have proven themselves extremely valuable assets that play vital roles in enabling the NWS to protect Americans from severe weather. Kansas City is proud to host these important functions and looks forward to continuing to host them far into the future. If you should have any questions or should I be able to assist in ensuring these functions remain in Kansas City in any way, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill  
U.S. Senator