# Ryan Maue

The White House appointed Ryan Maue to serve as the new Chief Scientist at NOAA, a position not requiring Senate confirmation. Maue is a meteorologist and serves as the developer of weathermodels.com. He was previously was an adjunct scholar with the Cato Institute. Maue is skeptical of the link between extreme weather and climate change and has a history of criticizing climate activists and Democrats for pushing for cuts in fossil fuel emissions to curb such events. Maue has a significant Twitter following with nearly 100,000 followers on the platform.

Key Findings:

**Maue Is Harshly Critical Of Anyone Who Links Extreme Weather Events To Climate Change.** Maue has a long history of criticizing scientists, elected officials, and news articles that link climate change to increases in extreme weather events. According to the Washington Post, “He has harshly criticized climate activists and Democrats for pushing for cuts in fossil fuel emissions by linking extreme weather events to global warming, but he does not dispute the fact that human-caused emissions of greenhouse gases are warming the planet in ways that are causing significant impacts.”

**Maue Is Outspoken On Social Media, And Has A Sizable Following, With Nearly 100,000 Twitter Followers.**

* *Maue has called Democrats ‘jackasses’*
* *Maue called Vice President Biden ‘shameless’*
* *Maue called climate scientists ‘activists’ who ‘make a lot of money’*
* *Maue called article linking 2020 hurricanes to climate change ‘silly’ and ‘dumb’*
* *Maue Claimed Without Evidence, That Biden Had Been Given Questions Ahead Of Press Conference*

**Maue Criticized Trump Administration After ‘Sharpiegate.’** While Maue questions mainstream climate scientists, he was bothered by Trump’s attacks on the National Weather Service during ‘Sharpeigate’ in 2019. According to E&E News, “But Maue has dinged Trump administration officials as well — notably those who were involved in a mini-scandal known as ‘Sharpiegate.’ Last year, Trump falsely said on Twitter that Hurricane Dorian was projected to strike Alabama. Soon after, National Weather Service forecasters in Birmingham corrected the president’s claims. But Trump didn’t let up. He displayed a hurricane tracking map that was altered with a marker to show it hitting Alabama. And top NOAA officials provided cover for the president. That bothered Maue. ‘Whoa! Nothing like throwing your ‘Alabama’ NWS office under the bus,’ Maue tweeted.”

**Gretchen Goldman Of UCS: “It Is Alarming To See NOAA Appoint Yet Another Person Who Doesn’t Align With Mainstream Climate Science.”** Some inside and outside the agency are now wondering if, despite it being so late in Trump’s first term, the NOAA’s relative freedom to communicate on climate change is about to be curtailed. ‘Based on his record of engagement with climate science community and the public, I’m skeptical that Maue would be acting in good faith as a leader at NOAA,’ Gretchen Goldman of the Union of Concerned Scientists, a research and advocacy group, said in an email. ‘It is alarming to see NOAA appoint yet another person who doesn’t align with mainstream climate science.’” [Washington Post, [9/21/20](https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2020/09/21/noaa-chief-scientist-maue/)]

# Background

## Bio

**Education**:

**2010:** Ph.D. in Meteorology, Florida State University

**2010:** M.S. in Meteorology, Florida State University

**2002:** B.A. in Atmospheric Science, University of Michigan

[LinkedIn, Accessed [9/22/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ryanmaue)]

**Professional Timeline:**

**2002-2010:** Graduate Research Assistant, Florida State University

**2010-2012:** National Research Council Post-Doctoral Research Associate, naval Research Laboratory

**2012-2017:** Meteorologist, WeatherBELL Analytics, LLC

**2017-2018:** Adjunct Scholar, Cato Institute

**2017-2019:** Chief Operations Officer, Weather.us

**2019-Present:** Meteorologist, BAMWX LLC

**2017-Present**: Developer, Weathermodels.com

[LinkedIn, Accessed [9/22/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ryanmaue)]

**Maue Frequently Criticizes ‘Climate Alarmists.’** According to E&E News, “The Trump administration’s pick to become NOAA’s new chief scientist is a meteorologist who frequently criticizes ‘climate alarmists,’ according to media reports and a source with knowledge of the appointment. Ryan Maue acknowledges that humans contribute to climate change, but he is a frequent critic of those who push for more aggressive climate policy. Maue has a robust Twitter following where he posts colorful weather maps from his company — and the occasional partisan attack. Targets include climate scientists and activists with whom he disagrees. Cato Institute Maue’s appointment, which does not require Senate confirmation, was first reported by The Washington Post.” [E&E News, [9/22/20](https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2020/09/22/stories/1063714331?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aclimatewire&utm_campaign=edition%2BiZ%2B%2FftFV%2B2LxUfHtN5bxJQ%3D%3D)]

**Maue ‘Routinely Challenges Scientists’ Who Connect Global Warming To Increased Extreme Weather Events.’** A source with knowledge of the appointment confirmed the move. Maue is now the developer of weathermodels.com. He routinely challenges scientists who connect global warming to real-world consequences, such as more intense hurricanes. This area of study — known as attribution science — is a relatively new but growing field.” [E&E News, [9/22/20](https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2020/09/22/stories/1063714331?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aclimatewire&utm_campaign=edition%2BiZ%2B%2FftFV%2B2LxUfHtN5bxJQ%3D%3D)]

**Maue On 2020 California Wildfires: ‘Democrats Have Coordinated Their Efforts’ To ‘Score Political Points In The Upcoming Election By Blaming Them Solely On Climate Change.’** According to The Hill, “Maue, currently a meteorologist and developer at weathermodels.com, has amassed a significant twitter following by sharing maps and forecasts tracking the weather. But his social media presence also shows he’s been critical of Democrats and claims that climate change is exacerbating natural disasters. In a now-deleted tweet from earlier this month, Maue said it ‘seems the Democrats have coordinated their efforts to use the devastating California fires as an opportunity to score political points in the upcoming election by blaming them solely on climate change (and Trump).’ The White House and the NOAA did not respond to request for comment.” [The Hill, [9/22/20](https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/517554-trump-noaa-hire-has-long-questioned-ties-between-climate-change-and)]

**Maue Claimed Without Evidence, That Biden Had Been Given Questions Ahead Of Press Conference.** According to E&E News, “Maue occasionally delves into politics. He baselessly accused reporters of giving Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden questions ahead of a recent press conference. ‘He has the questions ahead of time and is using his notes to answer,’ Maue tweeted.” [E&E News, [9/22/20](https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2020/09/22/stories/1063714331?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aclimatewire&utm_campaign=edition%2BiZ%2B%2FftFV%2B2LxUfHtN5bxJQ%3D%3D)]

**Maue Is Developer Of Weathermodels.Com, A Paid Subscription Site That Markets ‘Eye Popping’ Graphics.** According to the Washington Post, “Maue serves as the developer of weathermodels.com, a site that displays computer model information using eye-catching graphics to make their simulations accessible to professionals and hobbyists. He was previously an adjunct scholar with the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank that was involved in efforts to question the scientific consensus on human-induced climate change.” [Washington Post, [9/21/20](https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2020/09/21/noaa-chief-scientist-maue/)]

**Maue Is Harshly Critical Of Democrats And Climate Activists For Linking Extreme Weather To Climate Change.** According to the Washington Post, “He has harshly criticized climate activists and Democrats for pushing for cuts in fossil fuel emissions by linking extreme weather events to global warming, but he does not dispute the fact that human-caused emissions of greenhouse gases are warming the planet in ways that are causing significant impacts. He has also spoken out against scientists who link rapid Arctic climate change to weather extremes taking place outside the Arctic.” [Washington Post, [9/21/20](https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2020/09/21/noaa-chief-scientist-maue/)]

## Climate Skepticism

**Maue Wrote A 2018 Op-Ed Criticizing James Hansen’s Climate Projections.** According to an op-ed by Ryan Maue and Pat Michaels in the Wall Street Journal, “James E. Hansen wiped sweat from his brow. Outside it was a record-high 98 degrees on June 23, 1988, as the NASA scientist testified before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources during a prolonged heat wave, which he decided to cast as a climate event of cosmic significance. He expressed to the senators his ‘high degree of confidence’ in ‘a cause-and-effect relationship between the greenhouse effect and observed warming.’ With that testimony and an accompanying paper in the Journal of Geophysical Research, Mr. Hansen lit the bonfire of the greenhouse vanities, igniting a world-wide debate that continues today about the energy structure of the entire planet.” [Wall Street Journal, [6/21/18](https://www.wsj.com/articles/thirty-years-on-how-well-do-global-warming-predictions-stand-up-1529623442)]

**Maue Said That ‘Rapid Warming’ That Hansen Predicted ‘Isn’t Happening.’** According to an op-ed by Ryan Maue and Pat Michaels in the Wall Street Journal, “The problem with Mr. Hansen’s models—and the U.N.’s—is that they don’t consider more-precise measures of how aerosol emissions counter warming caused by greenhouse gases. Several newer climate models account for this trend and routinely project about half the warming predicted by U.N. models, placing their numbers much closer to observed temperatures. The most recent of these was published in April by Nic Lewis and Judith Curry in the Journal of Climate, a reliably mainstream journal. These corrected climate predictions raise a crucial question: Why should people world-wide pay drastic costs to cut emissions when the global temperature is acting as if those cuts have already been made? On the 30th anniversary of Mr. Hansen’s galvanizing testimony, it’s time to acknowledge that the rapid warming he predicted isn’t happening. Climate researchers and policy makers should adopt the more modest forecasts that are consistent with observed temperatures.” [Wall Street Journal, [6/21/18](https://www.wsj.com/articles/thirty-years-on-how-well-do-global-warming-predictions-stand-up-1529623442)]

**Justin Fox Of Bloomberg Claimed Hansen’s 1988 Predictions Were ‘Mostly Right.’** According to Justin Fox in Bloomberg, “A 1988 Climate Warning Was Mostly Right NASA scientist James Hansen’s famous global warming forecast ran through 2019. It wasn’t all that far off the mark.” [Bloomberg, [1/30/20](https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2020-01-30/1988-global-warming-forecast-by-james-hansen-proved-mostly-true?sref=JN1HDH2Z)]

**Maue Op-Ed ‘Grossly Distorted’ Hansen’s Paper.** According to The Guardian, “Last week in the Wall Street Journal, Michaels was joined by Ryan Maue in an op-ed that again grossly distorted Hansen’s 1988 paper. Maue is a young scientist with a contrarian streak who’s published some serious research on hurricanes, but since joining the Cato Institute last year, seems to have sold off his remaining credibility to the fossil fuel industry.” [The Guardian, [6/25/18](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/climate-consensus-97-per-cent/2018/jun/25/30-years-later-deniers-are-still-lying-about-hansens-amazing-global-warming-prediction)]

**The Guardian Said That There Is Not ‘An Ounce Of Truth’ To Maue’s Arguments.** According to The Guardian, “They provided no evidence to support this claim (evidence and facts seem not to be allowed on the WSJ Opinion page), and it takes just 30 seconds to fact check. In reality, global surface temperatures have increased by about 0.35°C since 2000 – precisely in line with Hansen’s 1988 model projections, as shown above. And it’s unscientific to simply “discount” the El Niño of 2015-16, because between the years 1999 and 2014, seven were cooled by La Niña events while just four experienced an El Niño warming. Yet despite the preponderance of La Niña events, global surface temperatures still warmed 0.15°C during that time. There’s simply not an ounce of truth to Michaels’ and Maue’s central WSJ claim.” [The Guardian, [6/25/18](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/climate-consensus-97-per-cent/2018/jun/25/30-years-later-deniers-are-still-lying-about-hansens-amazing-global-warming-prediction)]

**Hansen’s Projections Have Been Borne Out.** According to Earther, “Hansen’s projections, however, have been borne out, including under the scrutiny of peer review. The impacts of climate change as it intersects with other policies were clear in 2018 and have become clearer still today. Hotter, drier weather intersecting with decades of forest mismanagement have led to a firestorm in California. Then there are just the straight-up climate-driven catastrophes from the Arctic burning at rates unprecedented in 10,000 years to coral bleaching.” [Earther, [9/22/20](https://earther.gizmodo.com/noaa-taps-new-chief-scientist-who-downplays-climate-cha-1845133738)]

**Scientist Andrew Dessler Called Maue’s Op-Ed “Climate Denial At Its Finest.** According to Earther, “‘It’s climate denial at its finest,’ Andrew Dessler, an atmospheric scientist at Texas A&M, said in an email about the op-ed. He added that he was surprised by Maue’s hire due to his apparent ‘willingness to advance the agenda of climate deniers.’” [Earther, [9/22/20](https://earther.gizmodo.com/noaa-taps-new-chief-scientist-who-downplays-climate-cha-1845133738)]

**Maue Claimed That Hurricanes Have Not Gotten Stronger.** According to an op-ed by Ryan Maue and Pat Michaels in the Wall Street Journal, “Several more of Mr. Hansen’s predictions can now be judged by history. Have hurricanes gotten stronger, as Mr. Hansen predicted in a 2016 study? No.” [Wall Street Journal, [6/21/18](https://www.wsj.com/articles/thirty-years-on-how-well-do-global-warming-predictions-stand-up-1529623442)]

**New York Times: “Climate Change Is Making Hurricanes Stronger, Researchers Find**.” According to the New York Times, “Hurricanes have become stronger worldwide during the past four decades, an analysis of observational data shows, supporting what theory and computer models have long suggested: climate change is making these storms more intense and destructive. The analysis, of satellite images dating to 1979, shows that warming has increased the likelihood of a hurricane developing into a major one of Category 3 or higher, with sustained winds greater than 110 miles an hour, by about 8 percent a decade. ‘The trend is there and it is real,’ said James P. Kossin, a researcher with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and lead author of the study, published Monday in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. ‘There’s this remarkable building of this body of evidence that we’re making these storms more deleterious.’” [New York Times, [5/18/20](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/18/climate/climate-changes-hurricane-intensity.html#:~:text=Physics%20suggests%20that%20as%20the,stronger%20hurricanes%20as%20warming%20continues.)]

**Maue Has Been ‘Harshly Critical’ Of California Governor Gavin Newsom For Linking 2020 Wildfires To Climate Change.** According to the Washington Post, “In recent months, he has been harshly critical of California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) and his linking of the state’s deadly wildfire season to climate change. Climate studies show global warming is amplifying wildfire risks, making blazes more intense and frequent than they were a few decades ago. For example, a study published in August shows California’s frequency of fall days with extreme fire-weather conditions has already more than doubled since the 1980s.” [Washington Post, [9/21/20](https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2020/09/21/noaa-chief-scientist-maue/)]

## Cato Institute

**Cato Institute Is A Conservative Think Tank That Was Founded In 1977 By Charles Koch, Edward Crane, And Murray Rothbard.** [Cato Institute, [2001](https://www.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/pubs/pdf/25th_annual_report.pdf)]

**Cato Institute Claimed There Is ‘Ample Time’ To Address Climate Change, Contrary To Scientists.** According to the Cato Institute, “Global warming is indeed real, and human activity has been a contributor since 1975. But global warming is also a very complicated and difficult issue that can provoke very unwise policy in response to political pressure. Although there are many different legislative proposals for substantial reductions in carbon dioxide emissions, there is no operational or tested suite of technologies that can accomplish the goals of such legislation. Fortunately, and contrary to much of the rhetoric surrounding climate change, there is ample time to develop such technologies, which will require substantial capital investment by individuals.” [Cato Institute, 1/19/18]

**Maue Worked As Adjunct Scholar At Cato Institute For Years Until They Shut Down Shop.** According to E&E News, “Maue worked as an adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute for years until the think tank abruptly shut down its climate policy shop last year. The Cato Institute was founded by billionaire industrialist Charles Koch and has received millions of dollars from the Koch network, the Mercer Family Foundation, Exxon Mobil Corp. and other foundations that oppose regulations. At Cato, Maue worked with Pat Michaels, a climate researcher who rejects mainstream scientists’ concerns about rising temperatures. Michaels is now a part of the CO2 Coalition, which promotes the idea that the world benefits from burning more fossil fuels and adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. Last year, Maue told E&E News that he agreed with Michaels’ concept of ‘lukewarming,’ which rejects dire predictions of global warming.” [E&E News, [9/22/20](https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2020/09/22/stories/1063714331?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aclimatewire&utm_campaign=edition%2BiZ%2B%2FftFV%2B2LxUfHtN5bxJQ%3D%3D)]

**Maue Worked At Cato Institute Program That Questioned Climate Science From 2017 To 2018.** [E&E News, [5/29/19](https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2019/05/29/stories/1060419123); LinkedIn, Accessed [9/22/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ryanmaue)]

**Cato Institute ‘Quietly Shut Down’ Climate Program In 2019.** According to E&E News, “The Cato Institute quietly shut down a program that for years sought to raise uncertainty about climate science, leaving the libertarian think tank co-founded by Charles Koch without an office dedicated to global warming. The move came after Pat Michaels, a climate scientist who rejects mainstream researchers’ concerns about rising temperatures, left Cato earlier this year amid disagreements with officials in the organization. ‘They informed me that they didn’t think their vision of a think tank was in the science business, and so I said, ‘OK, bye,’’ Michaels said in an interview yesterday. ‘There had been some controversy going around the building for some time, so things got to a situation where they didn’t work out.’ A spokeswoman said Cato’s shuttering of the Center for the Study of Science does not represent a shift in the institute’s position on human-caused climate change. But the think tank moved decisively to close down the science wing that was overseen by Michaels. Ryan Maue, a meteorologist and former adjunct scholar, also left the center.” [E&E News, [5/29/19](https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2019/05/29/stories/1060419123)]

## Maue Posted nearly 90 times to ‘Watts up With That’ Climate Denial Blog

**Maue Has Posted 89 Times On The ‘Watts Up With That’ Blog From 2010-2017.** [Watts Up With That, Accessed [9/22/20](https://wattsupwiththat.com/author/ryanmaue/page/9/)]

**Ryan Maue Was A Regular Contributor To The ‘Watts Up With That’ Blog, Known For Climate Denial.** According to Earther, “Maue has, among other things, contributed to Watts Up With That, a climate-denial blog run by meteorologist Anthony Watts, and is frequently cited by other denier outlets, including just last week for a since-deleted tweet saying Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden was “shameless” for connecting the West’s wildfires to climate change (they are), “but it’s their political strategy to blame Trump for all natural disasters past, present, and future” (Biden didn’t; he warned of the risk of four more years of Trump’s deregulatory policies).” [Earther, [9/22/20](https://earther.gizmodo.com/noaa-taps-new-chief-scientist-who-downplays-climate-cha-1845133738)]

**Maue Called Bill Nye ‘Anti-Science Guy’ For Views On Climate Change.** According to a blog post from Ryan Maue in Watts Up With That, “But Bill Nye takes the ‘anti-science’ crusade to a new level by showing up on Fox Business with my KFI 640 Saturday friend Charles Payne and embarrassing the hell out of himself. Once you watch the video and read the transcript, you will be left in amazement at his utter lack of comprehension of the topic at hand on national television! But, alas, Media Matters thinks Nye owned Payne (h/t to Andrew Revkin to Tweeted this). And CBS News headlines it as a story! Unbelievable! The left actually thinks Bill Nye is a brilliant ambassador for their brand of global warming alarmism — a legitimate guy that understands the science and can articulate an explanation. However, Nye has no credentials or expertise with respect to global warming and hurricanes, at all. Not one iota.” [Watts Up With That, [8/30/11](https://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/08/30/bill-nye-is-the-anti-science-guy-when-it-comes-to-global-warming-and-hurricanes/)]

**Maue Wrote Blog Post Titled ‘Is Bill Nye Smarter Than A 5th Grader?’** [Watts Up With That, [5/28/11](https://wattsupwiththat.com/author/ryanmaue/page/3/)]

**Maue Called Creation Of Climate Reality Project ‘Lipstick On A Pig.’** According to a blog post from Ryan Maue in Watts Up With That, “Lipstick on a pig: Gore rebrands climate outfit. You knew it was only a matter of time after the Rolling Stone criticism of Obama on climate, but Al Gore is back and in a big way. Some are calling it an Inconvenient Truth 2.0 with a brand new slide show connecting extreme weather with global warming. The new “Climate Reality Project” moniker replaces Gore’s previous Alliance for Climate Protection racket.” [Watts Up With That, [7/12/11](https://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/07/12/lipstick-on-a-pig-gore-rebrands-climate-outfit/)]

## Social Media

# Maue Has History Of Criticizing Democrats And Climate Activists

**Maue Has Nearly 100,000 Followers On Twitter.** [@RyanMaue, Accessed [9/22/20](https://twitter.com/RyanMaue)]

**Maue Tweeted That Biden Was Using ‘Shameless’ Political Strategy To Blame Wildfires On Climate Change.** According to a tweet from Ryan Maue, “Biden hits Trump on climate: Western fires foreshadow 'unending barrage of tragedies' Shameless but it's their political strategy to blame Trump for all natural disasters past, present, and future.” [@RyanMaue, [9/12/20](https://www.climatedepot.com/2020/09/13/meteorologist-dr-ryan-maue-rips-bidens-shameless-blaming-of-wildfires-on-trump-its-their-political-strategy-to-blame-trump-for-all-natural-disasters-past-present-and-future/)]

**Maue Called Article On 2020 Hurricanes And Climate Change ‘Silly And Dumb.’** According to a tweet from Ryan Maue, “This article is silly and dumb from a scientific and political point of view. It’s like the author spilled 800 words explaining the most recent AOC climate Tweet. I’m going to file this away as fan service to the TDS crowd.” [@RyanMaue, [8/24/20](https://twitter.com/RyanMaue/status/1297900863768473600?s=20)]

**Maue Called Climate Scientists ‘Activists’ Who ‘Make A Lot Of Money.’** According to a tweet from Ryan Maue, “None of those scientists are doomsday preachers at all. They are activists and make a lot of money but not on preaching the Apocalypse.” [@RyanMaue, [7/14/20](https://twitter.com/RyanMaue/status/1283103726920769536?s=20)]

**Maue:** “Seems Dr. Krauthammer scored some direct hits on liberal climate activists. Good luck with your stupid #Fakeheadlines” [@RyanMaue, [2/28/14](https://twitter.com/RyanMaue/status/439499622034440192?s=20)]

**Maue:** “. @WaxmanClimate scary times indeed! Did you remind Nancy Pelosi to protect her vineyard from upcoming brutally hard freeze?” [@RyanMaue, [12/5/13](https://twitter.com/RyanMaue/status/408610399588610049?s=20)]

**Maue:** “This Al Gore climate reality Twitter stream is mostly robots (?) -- all Tweeting same thing on accounts at same time” [@RyanMaue, [10/22/13](https://twitter.com/RyanMaue/status/392715329035464704?s=20)]

**Maue:** “Democrats are donkeys aka Jackasses.” [@RyanMaue, [1/28/13](https://twitter.com/RyanMaue/status/296010718971588608?s=20)]