

November 13, 2018

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
Herbert Clark Hoover Building
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
New Executive Office Building
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Mr. Michael J. Kratsios
Deputy Assistant to the President
Deputy U.S. Chief Technology Officer
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Secretary Ross, Director Mulvaney, and Mr. Kratsios,

We write to urge increased investment in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in FY 2020. The science, technology and stewardship provided by NOAA is essential for our nation's health, security and economic prosperity. For example, NOAA provides weather and drought forecasts that farmers use to plan crops, sea state conditions to bring super tankers safely into port, water quality information to detect harmful algae blooms that threaten public health and much more. The federal NOAA investment is part of a broader government effort to provide essential, high-quality data and observations along with a better understanding of the underlying science which are necessary to many planning, strategy, and investment decisions in both the private and public sectors, including national security. We strongly urge you to minimize sequestration budget cuts and to fully support investments in the country's ocean, fisheries, operational weather enterprise, Earth and atmospheric research at NOAA in the President's FY 2020 budget request.

NOAA program investments have led to advances in a multitude of areas including severe weather forecasting, safe aviation and maritime transportation, hazard prediction and mitigation, living and non-living resource management, and remote and autonomous data collection to meet civilian and military missions. Additional cuts to NOAA will significantly reduce the effectiveness of observations, monitoring, mapping, and modeling that help states and industry manage our infrastructure, agricultural, fisheries and water resources, as well as reduce environmental risk and future federal and state costs from weather and water disasters. US economic competitiveness in the Global Weather Enterprise and continued innovation in a variety of sectors rely on NOAA's weather and water data to develop seasonal and yearly management plans for water, agriculture, energy and fisheries.

Increased investment in NOAA will provide a significant return to the U.S. economy. The U.S. ocean and coastal economy includes offshore energy, defense, fisheries and aquaculture, recreation and tourism, maritime commerce and among many others. The 2018 *NOAA Report on the U.S. Ocean and Great Lakes Economy* shows that the ocean economy contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) grew 5.7% from 2014 to 2015, which is more than double the overall U.S. economy's growth in that time (2.7%), and created 97,000 new jobs with a growth rate of 3.2% compared to an overall U.S. economy job growth rate of 2.1%. The nation's ocean and coastal economy is robust, resilient and projected to continue growing, in areas such as aquaculture, autonomous underwater vehicles, and weather forecasting services. The continued success and growth of these industries—and thus the overall U.S. economy depends on NOAA's world class operational weather and ocean prediction capabilities, science, technology and innovation.

Additional cuts in FY 2020 compounded with past reductions would have a significant and lasting impact--slowing innovation, degrading important services, and jeopardizing national security and public safety. We urge you to include the highest possible funding levels for NOAA in the President's FY 2020 budget request.

Sincerely,

ALASKA
Port of Nome

ALABAMA
Navy Cove Oyster Farm
Reel Surprise Charters
SanRoc Cay Marina

CALIFORNIA
Assure Controls, Inc.
Blue Latitudes LLC
Catalina Offshore Products
Catalina Sea Ranch, LLC
Cleantech San Diego
CustomWeather, Inc
Delawarde, Inc
Del Mar Oceanographic

GeoOptics, Inc.
Greeneridge Sciences Inc
Innovative Marine Inc
Jacobsen Pilot Services
Jupiter Intelligence
Marine Exchange of Southern California
MetOcean Telematics, Inc.
Ocean Aero, Inc.
Ocean Motion Technologies
Orange County Water District
Port of San Diego
Saildrone
San Diego Regional Economic Development
Corporation
Sealaska Engineering and Applied Sciences LLC
The Maritime Alliance
Turner Designs
World Trade Center San Diego

COLORADO

Atmospheric & Space Technology Research Associates
(ASTRA)
Ball Aerospace
Global Weather Corporation
Riverside Technology, Inc.
Vaisala, Inc.

DELAWARE

Rehoboth Bay Services LLC

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

American Wind Energy Association
Capitol Meteorologics
International Ocean Science & Technology Industry
Association (IOSTIA)

FLORIDA

Acme Sponge Company
Aylesworth's Fish and Bait
Fishing Oceanography, Inc.
Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association
Harris Corporation
Quantum Spatial, Inc.
RIEGL USA, Inc.
Saucey Lady Oyster
Teledyne Marine
Upton Environmental, DBA Roffer's Ocean Fishing
Forecasting Service (ROFFS™)

GEORGIA

Ban & Associates
The Weather Company, an IBM Business

ILLINOIS

AAC Microtec North America Inc.
Great Lakes Boating Federation

Network for Sustainable Financial Markets

LOUISIANA

ASV Global, LLC
Martin Ecosystems
Okeanus Science & Technology, LLC

MAINE

Maine Marine Trades Association

MARYLAND

ARINC/Rockwell Collins
Earth Networks, Inc.
ERT, Inc.
IBSS
JASCO Applied Sciences (USA) Inc
PierTech, LLC
RedLine Performance Solutions
Severn Marine Technologies, LLC
Solers, Inc
The Campbell Marketing Group, Inc.

MASSACHUSETTS

A.R.C. HATCHERY
Blue Incubator, PBC
Blue Institute at Cape Cod
EnBW North America
Ketcham Supply Co.
Mayflower Wind Energy LLC
Raytheon Company

MICHIGAN

Drummond Carpenter
Indian Brook Trout Farm Inc.

MINNESOTA

DTN
Duluth Seaway Port Authority

MISSISSIPPI

National Association of Charterboat Operators

MISSOURI

Midland Radio Corporation

NEW HAMPSHIRE

QPS-US

NEW JERSEY

Asbury Park Chamber of Commerce
Ecology and Environment, Inc
Exocetus Autonomous Systems
Monmouth-Ocean Development Council

NEW YORK

Willsboro Bay Marina

NORTH CAROLINA

Carteret County Chamber of Commerce
Consultants International
Crystal Coast Tourism Development Authority
Geodynamics LLC
Jot It Down Fishing Charters LLC
Surflife/Wavetrak

OHIO

Cleveland Water Alliance
Lake Carriers' Association
Marathon Petroleum Corporation
Woolpert

OKLAHOMA

Snow & Associates, LLC

OREGON

Argos, Inc.
Oregon Coast Visitor Center (OCVA)
Sharkey's Fishing Charters
Sharply Focused, LLC

PENNSYLVANIA

AccuWeather, Inc.

RHODE ISLAND

Eppley Laboratory

SOUTH CAROLINA

Discover Upcountry Carolina Association
Gault Seafood, LLC
Ladys Island Oyster, Inc.
South Carolina Emergency Management Association
Swimming Rockfish Hatchery, Inc.

TEXAS

Azura Consulting

BMT USA

Envision Energy
Envision Digital
Fugro USA Marine, Inc.
National Ocean Policy Coalition
SpectraSensors

UTAH

OCEARCH
Western States Water Council

VERMONT

Community Sailing Center
Greensea Systems, Inc.
Vermont Ski Areas Association

VIRGINIA

Bass Weather Services, LLC
Dewberry
Energy Systems Integration Group
International Association of Emergency Managers - U.S.
Council
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
Reston Consulting Group Inc

WASHINGTON

At-Sea Processors Association
Cray, Inc
Pacific Seafood Processors Association
Sea-Bird Scientific
Taylor Shellfish Farms

WISCONSIN

Superior Fresh LLC
Wisconsin Marine Association

WYOMING

Livestock Wx

Cc:

RDML Timothy Gallaudet, USN (Ret.), Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
The Honorable Neil Jacobs, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction
The Honorable Richard C. Shelby, Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Vice Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Nita M. Lowey, Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jerry Moran, Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate
The Honorable John Culberson, Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable José E. Serrano, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives

Industry Signatories to FY2020 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Funding Support Letter

