

12 August 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
U.S. Senate
Committee on Appropriations
S-128 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate
Committee on Appropriations
S-146A U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators McConnell, Reid, Cochran, and Mikulski:

As supporters, stakeholders, employees, and partners of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Friends of NOAA (FoNOAA) would like to thank you for the increase in discretionary funding provided in the *CJS Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2017*. **However, we are concerned about cuts in the bill to NOAA's budget, and request that you fund the agency at \$6.05 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017.** In order to ensure a stable funding environment for NOAA, and its programs that benefit our nation's economic stability, national security, and human safety, **we urge you and all of the members of the 114th Congress to complete the FY 2017 appropriations process this year.**

NOAA is essential to our country's economy, security, environment, and quality of life. Federal investment in the agency benefits all Americans, not just those who live along the coast or hold one of the 2.8 million jobs in ocean-dependent industries. These benefits include timely and accurate weather forecasts and warnings, essential environmental data and information, maintenance and sustainability of healthy oceans and coasts, informed and productive fishery management, the creation and operation of innovative and cutting-edge polar orbiting and geostationary satellites, and world-class research and development. A failure to adequately fund the agency would have wide-reaching harmful impacts to our economy, national security, and environmental resilience.

We applaud the dedication, bipartisan collaboration, and hard work of members and congressional staff that resulted in both House and Senate Appropriations Committees passing all 12 spending bills for the first time in years. **We strongly encourage Congress to avoid an extended CR and complete the FY 2017 appropriations process through regular order by the end of the calendar year** to ensure NOAA

programs are better able to support America's economy, security, environment, and quality of life.

FoNOAA appreciates your work to increase top-line CJS funding, and we understand the budgetary constraints that Congress must work within. **However, following August recess, we hope that members will work to complete the appropriation process and fund NOAA at \$6.05 billion in FY 2017.** We look forward to working with you to ensure a bright future for NOAA.

If Friends of NOAA can be of service or provide additional information, please contact us at info@friendsofnoaa.org.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Friends
of NOAA

AccuWeather, Inc.	National Federation of Regional Associations for Coastal and Ocean Observing
Alliance for Earth Observations	National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
American Association of Port Authorities	National Weather Service Employees Organization
American Geophysical Union	Natural Resources Defense Council
American Geosciences Institute	Navocean, Inc.
American Rivers	Oceana
American Weather and Climate Industry Association	Ocean Conservancy
Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography	Ocean Conservation Research
Association of National Estuary Programs	Ocean Exploration Trust
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities	The Ocean Foundation
Association of Zoos & Aquariums	The Ocean Project
Atmospheric and Environmental Research	Ogeechee Riverkeeper
Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp.	Oregon State University
Battelle	Pinnacle Engineering & Management Solutions
Campaign for Environmental Literacy	Quantum Spatial
The Campbell Marketing Group, Inc.	Raytheon
City of Port Washington, W.I.	Reinsurance Association of America
Coastal States Organization	Restore America's Estuaries
Colorado Ocean Coalition	Riverside Technology, Inc.
The Consortium for Ocean Leadership	School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, University of Hawai'i
Department of Fisheries Biology, Humboldt State University	Scripps Institution of Oceanography
ENFA Corp	Sea Grant Association
Fugro Pelagos, Inc.	Sea Stewards
Georgia Conservancy	SeaWeb
Global Science & Technology, Inc.	Shipbuilders Council of America
Guanaja Mangrove Restoration	Ships of Exploration and Discovery Research, Inc.
Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute	UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory
I. M. Systems Group, Inc.	UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability
Institute for Exploration	United Fishermen's Marketing Association, Inc.
Integrated Systems Solutions, Inc.	University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
International Fund for Animal Welfare	University of Colorado, Boulder
International SeaKeepers Society	University of Maryland
IOOS Association	University of Miami, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science
ISciences, LLC	The University of Oklahoma
The JASON Project	University of South Florida
Joint Ocean Commission Initiative	The University of Washington
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University Earth Institute	Vaisala, Inc.
Marine Conservation Institute	WeatherBank, Incorporated
Marine Fish Conservation Network	The Weather Coalition
The Mariners' Museum	West Marine
The Maritime Alliance	Wisconsin Maritime Museum
Meridian Institute	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
National Association of Marine Laboratories	World Wildlife Fund
The National Aquarium	
National Council of Industrial Meteorologists	
National Estuarine Research Reserve Association	