

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2025

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,  
and Related Agencies  
2406 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Meng  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,  
and Related Agencies  
2648 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Meng:

Thank you for your continued bipartisan support of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). As you work to finalize the Fiscal Year (FY26) Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request robust funding for NOAA.

NOAA performs essential services to protect the lives, livelihoods, and property of the American people. NOAA received \$6.7 billion in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024. Robust funding for FY26 will allow NOAA to fulfill its mission to understand and predict changes in the environment, transparently share that information with the public, and conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems.<sup>1</sup>

Within NOAA, the National Weather Service provides Americans with the vital weather data they need to protect their lives and property, especially during natural disasters. In 2024 alone, 27 natural disasters spanning tropical cyclones, flooding, tornadoes, wildfires, and more each had damage that exceeded a billion dollars, and altogether, they created more than \$182 billion in damage to homes and small businesses in communities across our country. These extreme weather events caused an estimated 568 fatalities.<sup>2</sup> The Office of Marine and Aviation Operations operates NOAA's data-collecting aircraft and ships that conduct coastal mapping, fisheries surveys, nautical charting, and hurricane reconnaissance and research. Following hurricanes, NOAA ships help identify navigation hazards to reopen ports quickly and NOAA aircraft take aerial images to assess the condition of homes and infrastructure.<sup>3</sup> Robust funding for NOAA will ensure Americans have access to timely and accurate weather data during natural disasters, leading to fewer fatalities and lower rebuilding costs for federal, state, and local governments.

NOAA services and products support countless small businesses and impact more than one-third of the United States gross domestic product.<sup>4</sup> The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) studies the status of fish stocks, sets science-based quotas for fisheries, and implements fisheries regulations. Thanks to NMFS support, commercial and recreational fisheries generated \$321 billion in sales and supported nearly 2.3 million jobs in 2022.<sup>5</sup> The National Ocean Service provides up-to-date marine navigation data to freight shipping companies delivering goods through America's waterways and ports. In Texas, the National Ocean Service worked with the Port of Corpus Christi to expand access to data and maximize efficiency.<sup>6</sup> The National Environmental

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.noaa.gov/our-mission-values-andvision#:~:text=Climate%2C%20weather%20and%20water%20affect,America's%20coastal%20and%20marine%20resources>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/beyond-data/2024-active-year-us-billion-dollar-weather-and-climate-disasters>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.omao.noaa.gov/about>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.noaa.gov/about-our-agency>

<sup>5</sup> <https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2024-11/FEUS-2022-SPO248B.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/navigation/maritime-climate/case-study.html>

Satellite, Data, and Information Service's (NESDIS) Aviation Weather Initiative provides commercial airlines vital satellite information on airplane engine health and weather. Additionally, farmers rely on NESDIS data to plan crops and increase food production.<sup>7</sup> Robust funding for NOAA will allow the agency to continue to provide the products and services industry relies on.

Finally, NOAA research and education activities deepen our understanding of the ocean and atmosphere while developing the next generation of ocean scientists. The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research conducts critical foundational research. Located in 33 states, between Hawaii to Maine and Washington to Florida, NOAA's Cooperative Institutes conduct research and technology development to deepen our understanding of the earth.<sup>8</sup> Sea Grant's 34 programs support critical research that furthers our understanding of the ocean and provides early career exposure to ocean science for undergraduate and graduate students. In 2023, Sea Grant supported 1,479 businesses, generating \$828.3 million in economic impact.<sup>9</sup> Robust funding for NOAA in FY26 will support NOAA's groundbreaking research and investments in the scientific workforce.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to provide robust funding for NOAA.

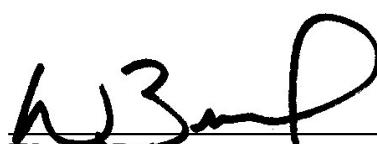
Sincerely,



Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell  
Member of Congress



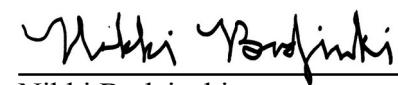
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<sup>7</sup> [https://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/s3/2024-03/Impacts\\_Briefing\\_Agriculture.pdf](https://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/s3/2024-03/Impacts_Briefing_Agriculture.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <https://ci.noaa.gov/>

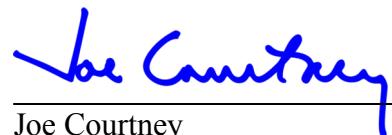
<sup>9</sup> [https://seagrant.noaa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2023-Sea-Grant-By-the-Numbers\\_10-3-24\\_508\\_web.pdf](https://seagrant.noaa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2023-Sea-Grant-By-the-Numbers_10-3-24_508_web.pdf)



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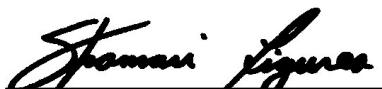
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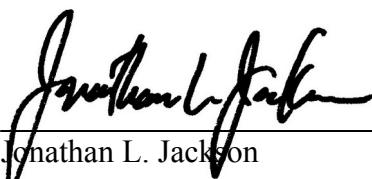
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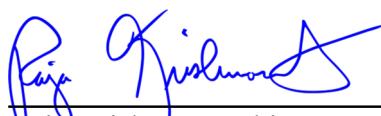
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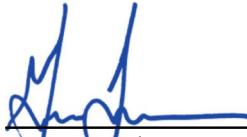
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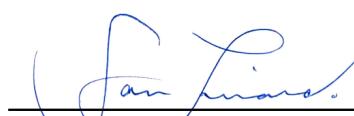
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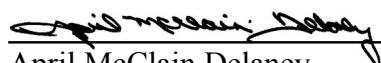
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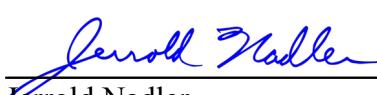
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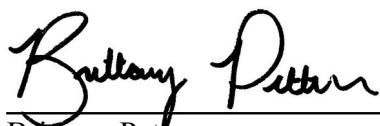
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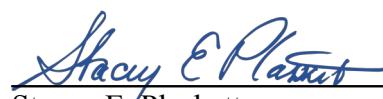
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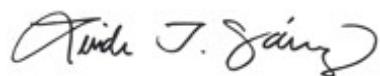
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