

2 March 2018

The Honorable John Culberson
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable José Serrano
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Culberson, Ranking Member Serrano, Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Shaheen,

On behalf of the Friends of NOAA Coalition, and our nearly 100 member organizations, thank you for your support of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the fiscal year 2018 and 2019 budget negotiations. We applaud raising the caps on non-defense discretionary spending and allowing for additional funds to support the important work done by NOAA.

We also applaud the appropriation of \$400 million for NOAA's hurricane recovery efforts following the devastating 2017 hurricane season. Funding for these efforts is essential to ensure that the communities affected by these storms can successfully rebuild, recover, and be better prepared for the future. However, equally important aspects of the work done at NOAA will require your support as you look to craft future spending bills.

As you finalize the FY2018 spending bills under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, we urge you to fund NOAA at \$6.1 billion, a five percent real increase over FY17 enacted levels. This level was also requested in our April 2017 appropriations [letter](#).

Strong, predictable funding for NOAA is essential to America's economic growth, national security, public health, environmental management, and scientific innovation. As an agency that does science in the name of service and stewardship, NOAA is uniquely aimed at putting people first. Without strong and sustained growth for NOAA, Americans across the nation risk being denied the full capabilities of the lifesaving products, services, and research provided by the agency.

From the heartland to the coasts, communities rely on the work done at NOAA. More than half of all Americans live along our coasts, over 2.8 million jobs are in ocean-dependent industries, and the insured value of coastal property now exceeds \$10 trillion. These jobs, properties, and communities require NOAA data to maintain a healthy coast.

Moreover, weather and climate sensitive industries account for an overwhelming majority of the U.S. GDP, and the value of daily weather forecasts is estimated at \$11.4 billion annually. When planning for drought, flood, tornadoes, blizzards, hurricanes, and beyond, we have NOAA to thank for continuing to improve accuracy, monitoring, and warning time when it matters most.

Americans need NOAA's range of oceanic and atmospheric data, products, and services now more than ever before. Investing in NOAA not only strengthens our nation's capacity for science-based innovation, but also enables individuals, businesses, and government to better manage risk and optimize decision-making. We urge you to act on the additional discretionary funds made available through the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, and fund NOAA at \$6.1 billion in FY18.

Thank you for your continued support and consideration of this request. If Friends of NOAA can be of service or provide additional information, please contact info@friendsofnoaa.org, and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Friends of NOAA Co-Chairs

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*Senior Public Affairs
Specialist*
American Geophysical
Union

Ari Gerstman
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