

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 17, 2013

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
H-304, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Science and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Fattah:

We write to respectfully request that you provide full funding of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Atmospheric Research (OAR) "Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring" program, as well as a minimum of \$1.5 million in funding for the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) to support the chartering of University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) or other research vessels for ocean observing data collection, as you craft your Fiscal Year 2014 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. Recent reductions in funding support for ocean observations have jeopardized ocean observing data collection and related infrastructure.

Global observing programs, such as global drifters and fixed buoys, provide information essential for accurate weather forecasting of hurricanes, typhoons, and coastal flooding. Data and analyses of ocean and atmospheric conditions are increasingly used for drought early warning systems, enhanced tsunami warning systems, and storm surge monitoring. Furthermore, ocean observations are imperative to calibrating and validating satellite observations, providing real-time information to ensure the accuracy of satellite data. These in situ ocean observations are required to initialize and update numerical models, allowing for improved short- and long-term weather and climate forecasts. Public and private managers at the national, regional, state and local level rely on the near-term and extended weather and water forecasts supported by these observations for seasonal and yearly management plans for agriculture, energy, maritime commerce and fisheries management.

Finally, we request that the Committee provide \$1.5 million dedicated to supporting the leasing of UNOLS or other research vessels in support of OAR ocean observations. Continued declines in funding for the NOAA research fleet, compounded by increased operational and maintenance costs as the fleet ages, has resulted in NOAA shifting at-sea funding costs to research and management programs. The degradation of NOAA's research infrastructure is of great concern to the ocean and atmospheric sciences community, who depend upon ship-based observation assets to ensure the collection of crucial

baseline data necessary to support the Agency's broader mission-driven requirements to provide reliable and time data to decision makers. The diminishment or loss of this information will increase risk to public and private resources, while increasing the federal government's fiscal liability as the insurer of last resort.

Again, we respectfully urge you to provide full funding for NOAA's "Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring" program and a minimum of \$1.5 million in funding for the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations to support the chartering of University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System vessels in your FY 2014 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. We thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM R. KEATING
Member of Congress



EDWARD J. MARKEY
Member of Congress



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



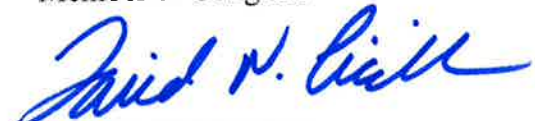
ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress



SUSAN A. DAVIS
Member of Congress



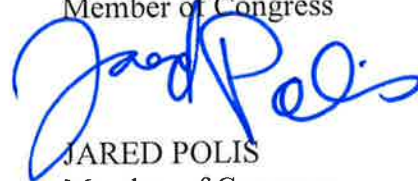
CAROLYN MCCARTHY
Member of Congress



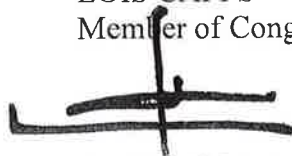
DAVID CICILLINE
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LOIS CAPPS
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JARED POLIS
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COLLEEN HANABUSA
Member of Congress



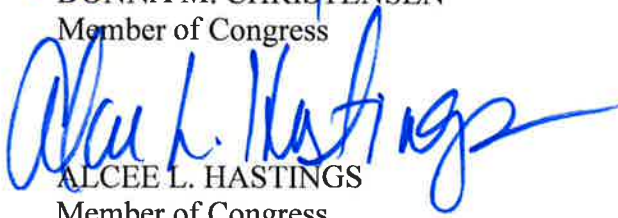
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ALCEE L. HASTINGS
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ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Member of Congress



CAROL SHEA-PORTER
Member of Congress



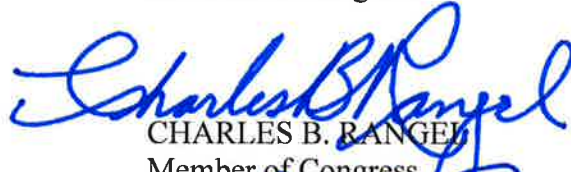
CORRINE BROWN
Member of Congress



MADELINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress



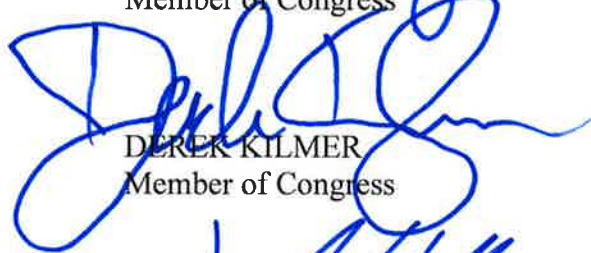
JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress



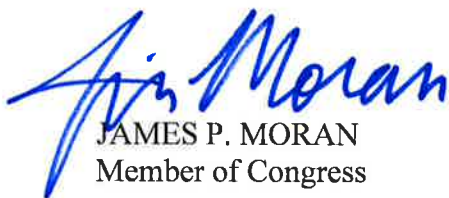
CHARLES B. RANGEL
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