

14 October 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  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S- 128 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**The Honorable Barbara Mikulski**  
Vice Chairwoman  
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 your leadership during the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 appropriations process. NOAA and its programs provide significant benefits to our nation's economic stability, national security, environment, and human safety. To ensure a stable funding environment for NOAA and its programs, **we strongly encourage you to complete the FY 2017 appropriations this year and avoid continuing resolutions that go beyond 2016.**

FoNOAA applauds both members and staff of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for their continued dedication and collaboration on this issue. While we understand the budgetary constraints that Congress faces, **we urge you and all members of Congress to support robust funding for NOAA as you complete the appropriations process this year.** Doing so will ensure that these programs are better able to support America's economy, security, environment, and quality of life.

If Friends of NOAA can provide additional information or otherwise be a resource, please contact us at [info@friendsofnoaa.org](mailto:info@friendsofnoaa.org).

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Friends  
of NOAA

cc: The Honorable John Cornyn, Senate Majority Whip

The Honorable Dick Durbin, Senate Democratic Whip  
The Honorable John Thune, Senate Majority Conference Chair  
The Honorable John Barrasso, Senate Majority Policy Committee Chair  
The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Senate Democratic Policy Committee Chair  
The Honorable Roy Blunt, Senate Majority Conference Vice Chair  
The Honorable Patty Murray, Senate Democratic Conference Secretary  
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee

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