



Friends of NOAA

November 21, 2025

The Honorable Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Collins, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

Friends of NOAA, composed of the undersigned representatives of industry, academia, and the nonprofit sector, write to thank you for your longstanding support of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. We urge passage of full FY 2026 appropriations and funding for NOAA at no less than proposed in the Senate bill. We further request oversight regarding recent critical staff shortages and withholding of funds for programs that safeguard lives and property, drive economic prosperity, and advance U.S. scientific leadership.

We want to acknowledge and sincerely thank the House Commerce, Justice, and Science subcommittee for its thoughtful work to increase funding for some NOAA initiatives above the Administration's request. The Committee included funding for several programs that are central to NOAA's mission, including research and observations. We strongly support the inclusion of funding for these programs in any final bill that emerges. At the same time, it is our studied assessment that the overall level and policy direction put forward in the bipartisan-led Senate CJS bill, and approved by the full Committee, are essential to maintain the Agency at necessary funding levels to protect the economy, health, and safety of the nation.

As such, we strongly urge Congressional negotiators to adopt— at a minimum— the \$6.1 billion top-line number from the Senate CJS subcommittee and full committee-approved bill, and, to retain language in the Senate bill which, taken as a whole, will make it incumbent on the Administration to implement NOAA programs consistent with the language approved by Congress.

NOAA plays an integral role in an effective and efficient government as well as in

achieving critical Administration’s priorities. NOAA provides essential services, including data collection, assimilation, computing, and dissemination for weather prediction to protect life and property across all corners of the country. Investments in weather research and operations can propel the U.S. weather model to continue being the best in the world. In addition, the agency has several functions to improve and support commercial interests of the U.S., for example, to include fisheries stock assessments and regulations to prevent illegal fishing and promote competitiveness of American fishing over foreign imports.

In addition to FY 2026 funding, we remain very concerned that funds approved by Congress for FY 2025, including certain funds that have been internally cleared, are stuck and not being fully utilized by the Agency for their intended purposes. We ask you to assert your oversight responsibility and assure that funds appropriated by Congress are obligated and disbursed by the agency and not being held up by duplicative and unnecessary levels of review.

Friends of NOAA urges recognition that an investment in NOAA not only serves the agency, but also the weather and environment- related and impacted industry that relies on NOAA for core data, tools, and science. NOAA capabilities support day-to-day industry operations and advancements in weather and environment optimization and risk management. NOAA’s continued commitment to science led to improvements to the challenging 10+ day forecasts through incorporation of ocean data bringing increased predictability to hazardous weather events and additional lead time in mitigating the impacts. This is a recognition that our Earth systems are highly interactive and that NOAA research-to-operations is a tide that raises all ships for our nation, its people, and its industries.

In conclusion, we—as long-standing partners of NOAA from all sectors, who support the Agency in meeting its mandates— strongly encourage you to continue to support NOAA at levels for FY 2026 approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee of \$6.1 billion, while retaining language that asserts constitutional authority for Congress to direct Agency spending.

If Friends of NOAA can be of service or provide additional information, please contact Friends of NOAA leadership at admin@friendsofnoaa.net. Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for the laudable service you continue to provide to NOAA and the nation.

Sincerely,

Friends of NOAA

American Association of Port Authorities	Parymon Corporation
American Institute of Biological Sciences	Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
American Rivers	RCG
Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography	RedLine Performance Solutions

Campaign for Environmental Literacy	Reinsurance Association of America
Capitol Meteorologics	Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego
Coastal States Organization	Sea and Shore Solutions, LLC
Earth Resources Technology, Inc. (ERT)	Sea Grant Association
Earthjustice	
IOOS Association	The Nature Conservancy
Isciences, L.L.C	
National Aquarium	Thrivner
NV5	UCAR
Ocean Conservancy	University of Colorado - Boulder
Ocean Defense Initiative	University of Rhode Island
Ocean Exchange	University of Washington
Oceana	Vaisala, Inc.
	Woodwell Climate Research Center