

Friends of NOAA Coalition

February 11, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
The Honorable Daniel Inouye
The Honorable Thad Cochran
The Honorable Max Baucus
The Honorable Charles Grassley

The Honorable David Obey
The Honorable Jerry Lewis
The Honorable Charles Rangel
The Honorable Dave Camp
The Honorable Henry Waxman

United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Conferees:

On behalf of the Friends of NOAA Coalition, we the undersigned are writing to express our thanks to the House and Senate for recognizing the important contributions National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) programs make to the economy and convey our strong support for funding provided for NOAA in H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The programs and activities proposed in the House and Senate bills, including investments in critical infrastructure and habitat restoration, would generate direct economic benefits while also enhancing the agency's capacity to provide essential information for decision makers to better manage the ocean and understand climate-related changes in an increasingly stressed environment.

Friends of NOAA is committed to improving the agency's capacity to support informed decision making, particularly those activities impacting the economic viability of the nation's coastal and inland communities. This includes significantly enhancing the quality, availability and timeliness of ocean and atmospheric science and information provided to policy makers, managers and the public. Unfortunately, chronic underfunding of NOAA has severely limited its capacity to address pressing national challenges, such as enhancing our understanding of climate change, addressing climate-related impacts on the economy and environment, evaluating renewable energy opportunities in coastal waters, and supporting efforts to stimulate the science and technology base that is critical to the future of the nation's economy.

The proposed funding in the pending economic stimulus bills, including support for satellites and climate modeling, the construction and repair of NOAA facilities, support for habitat restoration, hydrographic survey backlogs, critical weather observing systems and radar, and marine debris projects merits inclusion in the final bill. These funds will generate jobs and reduce risk and future expenses, while also enhancing the effectiveness and increase the availability of products and services that help support the economy. We greatly appreciate your continuing support for NOAA and strongly encourage you to support these important investments.

Friends of NOAA Coalition

Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Joint Ocean Commission Initiative
National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
ITT Space Systems Division
Arizona State University
Proteus Environmental Technologies
Coastal States Organization
National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges
Alliance for Earth Observation
The Ocean Foundation
Restore America's Estuaries
National Weather Service Employees Organization
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
The University of Oklahoma
Weather Coalition
American Weather & Climate Industry Association
WeatherBank, Inc.
North Carolina State University
Raytheon
National Estuarine Research Reserve Association
National Association of Marine Laboratories
Institute for Exploration
Ocean Exploration Trust
Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
Adaptation Network
West Marine
American Rivers
American Association of Port Authorities
U.S. Chamber of Commerce Space Enterprise Council
AccuWeather, Inc.