

Friends of NOAA Coalition

February 11, 2009

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, Chairman
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, Ranking Member
United States Senate
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Rockefeller and Ranking Member Hutchison:

On behalf of the Friends of NOAA Coalition, we the undersigned strongly endorse President Obama's nomination of Dr. Jane Lubchenco as the new Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). We hope the Committee and Senate are able to act expeditiously on Dr. Lubchenco's appointment.

Dr. Lubchenco is a renowned scientist, an effective educator and communicator of science, well versed and respected in the policy arena, and an experienced manager. Given this collection of skills, she will serve NOAA well in fulfilling its duties in ocean protection and management, weather forecasting, nautical charting, data collection and synthesis, fisheries management, hazard mitigation, and education and outreach efforts. Her expertise in marine ecosystem processes and the impacts associated with climate variability give her a strong background to lead NOAA as it becomes a central player in the effort to meet the challenges our nation and the world are facing as a result of climate change.

Dr. Lubchenco's qualifications are many, and are recognized globally. She formerly served as President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the International Council for Science; she is an elected member of such entities as the National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society; and she was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve on the Board of Directors for the National Science Foundation. As a testament to her dedication to helping translate science into policy, she co-founded three organizations that reach out to the public, policymakers, the media and industry—the Leopold Leadership Program, COMPASS (the Communication Partnership for Science and the Sea), and the new Climate Central. She also served on the Pew Oceans Commission and has been an active member of the Joint Oceans Commission Initiative (JOCI). Finally, as a manager, she leads the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO), which is a 4-university, interdisciplinary team of scientists.

We believe that Dr. Lubchenco's diverse background and communication skills are key qualifications that make her highly capable of supporting the broad mandates of NOAA. She is ideal for enhancing NOAA's role within the Department of Commerce and highlighting its value to our nation's economy, scientific competitiveness, and overall wellbeing. We think Dr. Lubchenco will do an outstanding job as the Leader of NOAA. Therefore, we endorse her selection and urge her timely confirmation by the Senate so that she can begin the urgent work of strengthening NOAA and thereby, strengthening our nation.

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Sincerely,

ACCUWeather
Alliance for Earth Observations
American Rivers
American Society of Limnology and Oceanography
American Weather & Climate Industry Association
Arizona State University
Association of Zoos and Aquariums
Coastal States Organization
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Fugro Pelagos
Institute for Exploration
ITT Space Systems Division
Joint Ocean Commission Initiative
Marine Conservation Biology Institute
National Estuarine Research Reserve Association
National Federation of Regional Associations for Coastal and Ocean Observing
National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
Ocean Conservancy
Ocean Exploration Trust
Proteus Environmental Technologies
Reinsurance Association of America
Restore America's Estuaries
School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University
The Campbell Group, Inc.
The Nature Conservancy
The Ocean Foundation
The Ocean Project
The Weather Channel, Inc.
The Weather Coalition
UCLA Institute of the Environment
United Fishermen's Marketing Association, Inc.
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
University of Oklahoma
WeatherBank, Inc.
West Marine
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution