

January 18, 2012
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For Immediate Release



Friends of NOAA Concerned by President's NOAA Relocation Plan

Silver Spring, Md. -- On January 13, President Obama called on Congress to reinstate Presidential authority to reorganize the federal government. The president also laid out his first proposed use of that authority: to revamp the Commerce Department, including a transfer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration into the Department of the Interior. In response, Friends of NOAA issued the following statement:

“Since 2005, Friends of NOAA has worked to support NOAA’s interdependent science, service, and stewardship missions, and we are concerned about the proposed reorganization’s short- and long- term impacts on NOAA’s ability to execute core, Congressionally-mandated missions. It is essential that NOAA’s home in the federal government ensures that the agency is best able to fulfill critical requirements to save lives and property and conserve our ocean, coasts, and fisheries.

“As supporters, stakeholders, employees, and partners of NOAA, Friends of NOAA has always supported strengthening NOAA so that the agency is better able to minimize loss of life and property damage, give businesses the information they need to create jobs, enable sound ocean resource management, and enhance capacities to understand and predict Earth’s continually-evolving environment.

“In our efforts to strengthen NOAA, Friends of NOAA has always worked closely with the Administration. While we fully support efforts to increase the efficiency of government, we are deeply concerned that this preliminary reorganization proposal could move forward without any input or consultation from the Friends of NOAA community. Full engagement with NOAA’s customers and constituents is essential to evaluate potential tradeoffs and avoid unintended consequences of such a significant organizational change.”

The Friends of NOAA are supporters, stakeholders and partners of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and encourage Congress and the Administration to provide appropriate, balanced support for the agency as it carries out its mission of saving lives and livelihoods and conserving our ocean and coasts.

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