

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2019

Honorable Jose Serrano
Chairman
Subcommittee Commerce, Justice, Science
H310 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee Commerce, Justice, Science
1016 Longworth House Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholt

We write to thank you for your past support of the National and Regional U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (U.S. IOOS) and to request that you provide \$43.7 million for this program in the Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriation Act. The U.S. IOOS is the nation's premier ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes observing program that provides information that helps protect lives, economies, and our environment. The requested appropriations will ensure steady funding for the national network of 11 regional coastal observing systems, allow for the deployment of much-needed technology to underserved areas, and provide an investment in development of next generation of monitoring systems.

Our priority is to fully fund for the national network of regional coastal observing systems that generates and delivers reliable information about the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. This request ensures the continued and uninterrupted operation of the 11 Regional Associations that work with regional partners to improve our understanding of the unique characteristics of the nation's diverse regions and integrate data from federal and non-federal sources, including the private sector. The Regional Associations deploy, operate, and maintain over 300 observing assets that collect oceanographic and coastal data to improve safety, enhance the economy, and protect the environment. IOOS increases economic efficiency and minimizes redundancy by leveraging non-federal investments. In fact, over fifty percent of the marine data used by the National Weather Service comes from non-federal sources. IOOS Regional Observations also include the Marine Sensor Innovation program, which supports research, development, testing, and evaluation of new sensor technology, observing strategies, and modeling.

We want to thank you for the support the Committee provided in FY19 with a funding level of \$37 million. The requested \$6.7 million increase over FY 19 continues the work to fill critical gaps in the national observing network. About half of the requested funding will be used to deploy or refurbish High Frequency (HF) radars that detect the speed and direction of the surface currents in real-time. The Coast Guard states that the HF radar data can reduce their search area by two-thirds, thereby shrinking their search area and increasing the likelihood of a successful rescue. The data is also used by NOAA in preparing and responding to emergencies such as spills. In Florida, HF radar provides the provide, increased maritime safety along the Florida coast where the Coast Guard

receives the most search and rescue requests. The FY20 request will increase safety in the Arctic marine highway, aid detection of harmful algal blooms, respond to extreme events and ensure safe and efficient shipping.

Included in the \$6.7 million increase will be \$3.07 million that will be used to purchase, refurbish and fly underwater profiling gliders. Gliders are a cost-effective and flexible platform for gathering information on the changes happening below the surface of the water. For example, in the Great Lakes, gliders are being used to provide flexibility to focus the risk of harmful algal blooms. In the Northeast they are being equipped with acoustic sensors to detect whales and alert mariners in near real-time about the location of whales to reduce collisions. In the Mid-Atlantic they are being used to protect lives and property from hurricanes by seeing below the surface of coastal ocean areas. And on the California Coast they are critical for the models that provide the forecasts for Harmful Algal Blooms, changing local weather and ocean conditions, and for reports for marine sanctuaries.

We appreciate the support for the IOOS included in the House-passed mark for FY19 and want to emphasize the need to fully fund the national network of regional observing systems and for increased funding for FY20. For that reason, we respectfully request that the Committee provide the necessary funding of \$43.7 million to the U.S. IOOS within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Service.

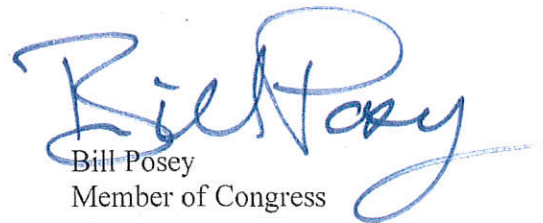
Sincerely,



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress




Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



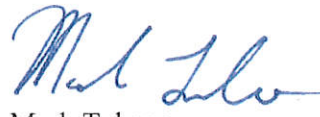
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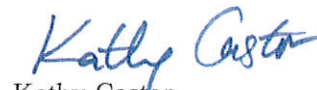

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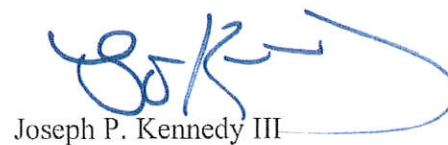

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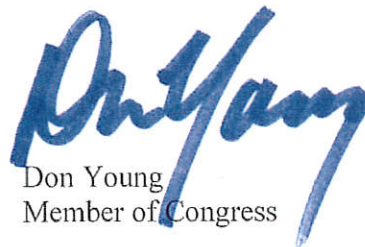
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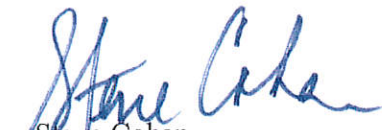
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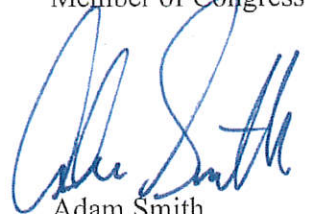
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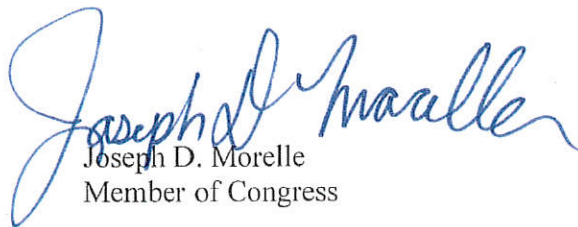
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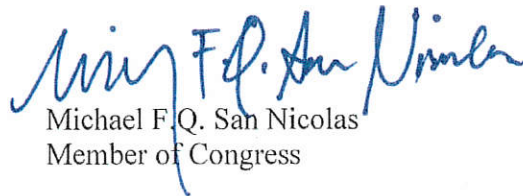
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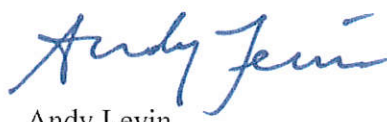

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