

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2019

The Honorable José Serrano
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholdt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholdt:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations Act, we respectfully request a total of \$31.7 million for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Tsunami Warning Centers and for the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP). These funds will provide vulnerable communities with accurate information, early notification, and guidance on proper action in the event of a tsunami.

Unfortunately, it is not a question of if, but when, a tsunami triggered by an earthquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone will hit our coastal communities. Preparing for tsunami is a life-or-death matter for residents of coastal communities. Since the beginning of the 20th century, 34 tsunami events have been responsible for the deaths of 500 people and more than \$1.7 billion in damages to the United States and territories. Helping coastal communities prepare for a tsunami event will save lives and reduce the cost of response and recovery later.

The National Weather Service operates two tsunami warning centers – the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center at Ford Island, Hawaii, and the National Tsunami Warning Center at Palmer, Alaska – that monitor, detect, and issue warnings for tsunami. The NTHMP was established in 1995 in recognition of a tsunami threat to Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Hawaii, and California from a large earthquake on the Cascadia Subduction Zone. The program facilitates the effective response by communities to the warnings issued by the Tsunami Warning Centers through outreach and education programs, like NOAA's TsunamiReady program.

The NTHMP funds partnerships with states, territories, and localities to improve the education and preparedness of coastal communities through inundation maps, evacuation plans, technical training and public education programs, outreach projects, evacuation drills, and warning infrastructure. Natural disaster prevention and preparedness saves lives and potentially billions of dollars used to rebuild failing infrastructure. These are essential investments for our coastal communities.


Although we hope to never experience the devastation a tsunami event would bring, funding for the NTHMP and Tsunami Warning Centers will help improve preparedness and forecasting to

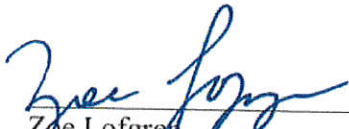
better protect our coastal communities. We request a total of \$31.7 million to support NOAA Tsunami Warning Centers and the NTHMP.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

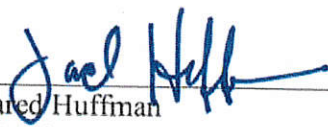
Sincerely,


Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

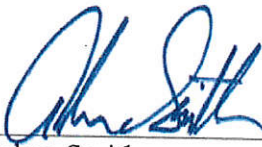

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Member of Congress

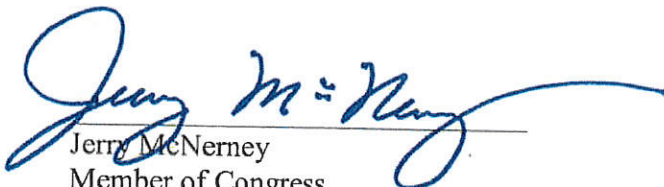

Don Young
Member of Congress

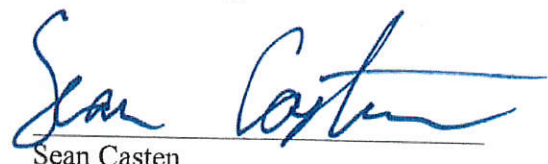

Jared Huffman
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Jennifer González-Colón
Member of Congress

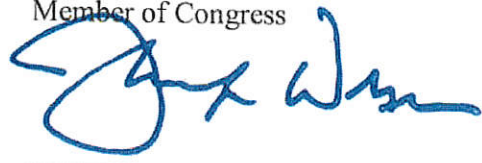

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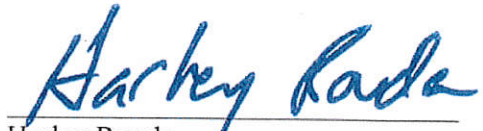
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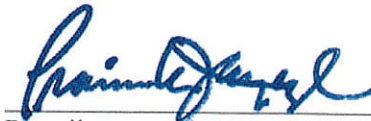
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Sheila Jackson Lee
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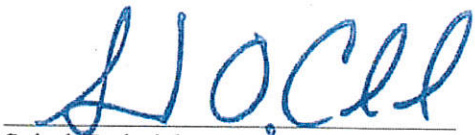
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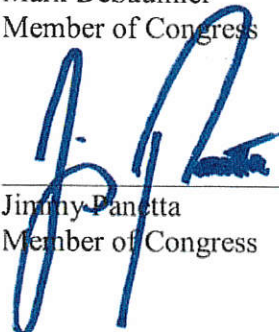
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