

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:

We write to request your continued support for the Integrated Ocean Acidification Program to help coastal communities better prepare for and mitigate the effects of climate change on our oceans. As you consider the Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations Act, we respectfully request that you provide \$30.5 million total funding for the Integrated Ocean Acidification Program.

The health of our oceans reflects the health of our planet, and our oceans are taking the brunt of our inaction to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change. About one third of the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere dissolves into our oceans, coastal estuaries, and waterways. As oceans and estuaries absorb carbon dioxide produced by human activity, the waters become more acidic, destabilizing fisheries and threatening the future of coastal communities and ecosystems.

Ocean acidification is a significant threat to coastal communities and industries across the United States. On the West Coast, shellfish larvae are struggling to build their shells, leaving oysters and clams especially vulnerable. New England clams dissolving in mudflats offer a preview of the negative effects of ocean acidification along the Atlantic coast. In Maine, fishermen are concerned about the implications of ocean acidification for the state's iconic lobster industry. Emerging research from Alaska indicates that ocean acidification could have devastating effects on commercially valuable red king crab and Tanner crab populations.

Changes in ocean chemistry threaten the blue economy, which contributes at least \$352 billion in economic activity annually. Ocean acidification affects fishers and shellfish farmers who depend on the oceans' resources to support their families, and the tribes that have rights and deep cultural and historical connections to diminishing species.

Our oceans are resilient, and we can help them heal, but we cannot afford to wait. Expanding scientific research and monitoring of ocean acidification will help identify risks and inform vulnerable communities, industries, and coastal and ocean managers on how they can best prepare and, where possible, adapt to changing conditions, thereby reducing adverse economic and environmental effects.

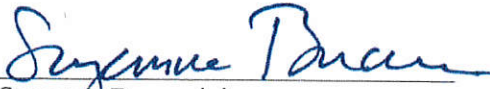
Federal investments in ocean acidification are advancing our understanding of the problem, but the scale of the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program has not kept pace with the increasing severity and threats to our ecosystem. We urge you to allocate robust funding for the NOAA Integrated Ocean Acidification Program for FY20 to:

- Increase efficiency of observing systems, including expanding long-term monitoring programs to better inform the regional needs of under-sampled regions, including Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Maine, and estuaries like the Chesapeake Bay;
- Expand regional vulnerability and socioeconomic studies in areas of concern including the Gulf of Maine, Gulf of Mexico, Pacific Northwest, U.S. Pacific Islands, and Arctic and assess adaptation and mitigation strategies;
- Strengthen the long-term stewardship and standardization of ocean acidification data to make it more accessible and better tailored to needs of regional stakeholders and the public; and
- Develop partnerships with affected industries, the Coastal Acidification Networks, and the Integrated Ocean Observing System to develop adaptation strategies


We request a total of \$30.5 million for the Integrated Ocean Acidification Program to support research on the effects of climate change on our oceans.

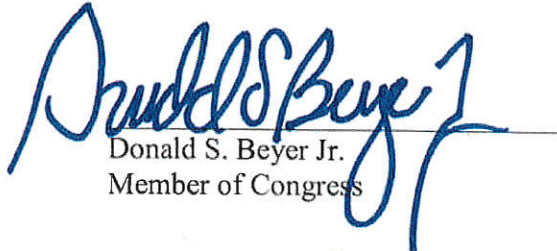
Thank you for consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

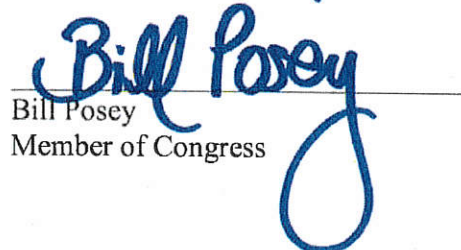

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Denny Heck
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Chellie Pingree
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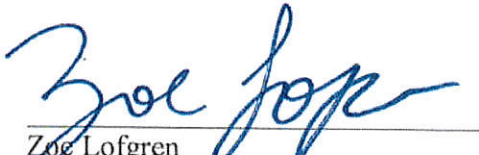

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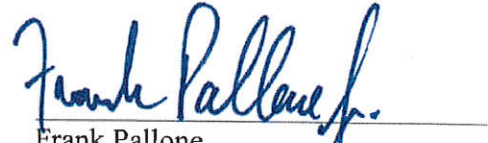

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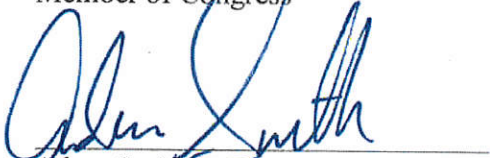

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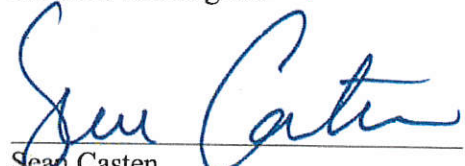

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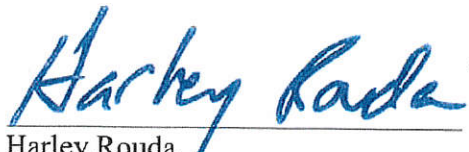

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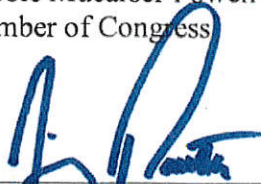

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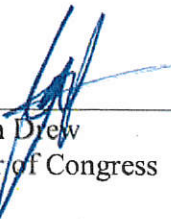
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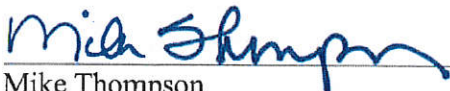
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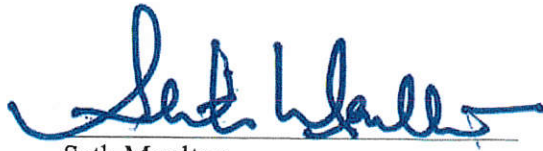
Mark DeSaulnier
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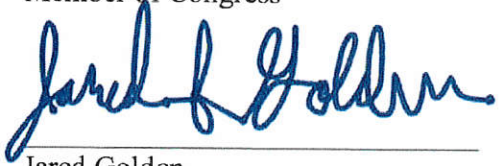
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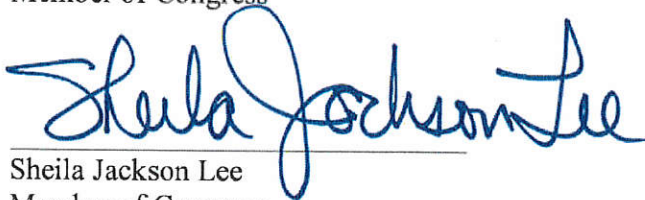
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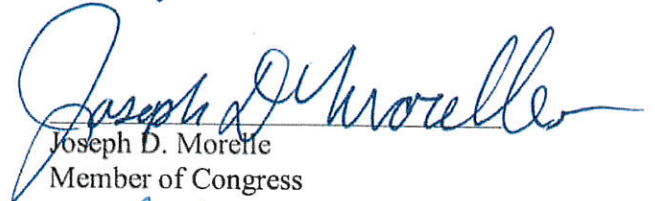
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Jim Himes
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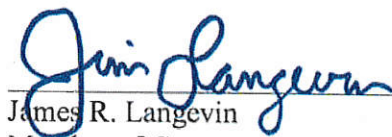
Joseph D. Morelle
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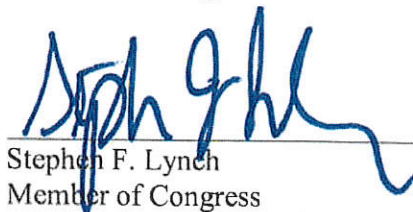
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