

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2019

The Honorable José E. Serrano
Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
H-310, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert B. Aderholdt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholdt:

As you begin to consider Fiscal Year 2020 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations, we write in support of the NOAA Coastal Resilience Grants Program. To competitively fund projects across the 35 coastal and Great Lakes states as well as territories, we are requesting at least \$100 million in funding in FY 2020.

Ocean chemistry is changing as increasing amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere dissolve in seawater, causing harm to marine resources and ocean-dependent industries and communities. Additionally, the global average sea level is 5 to 8 inches higher than a century ago, and the rate of this rise is accelerating. This is causing increased flooding, destructive erosion, contamination of aquifers and agriculture soils, and risks to the long-term existence of coastal and low-lying communities. The resilience of our coastal communities is at stake.

The Coastal Resilience Grants Program provides dedicated federal funding to strengthen coastal infrastructure and support coastal research, resiliency, conservation, and restoration work. Coastal resilience is a critical mission for NOAA and the National Ocean Service. Resilience means more than just storm-ready. Truly resilient communities are able to effectively adapt to changing economic, social, and environmental conditions over time and effectively respond to new challenges and threats to infrastructure, local economies, ecosystem health, and national security.

Eligible recipients include state, local, tribal and territorial government agencies and nonprofits who use these funds to increase their ability to prepare for and recover from a variety of coastal threats, including hurricanes, tsunamis, and sea level rise. Project focus areas include flood protection, infrastructure improvement, restoration of coastal habitat, and proactive community planning initiatives like ocean data portals that are essential to help manage the many uses of an increasingly busy ocean and coastal zone.

Resource needs greatly outpace the funding that has been historically available for competitive grants. We greatly appreciate your willingness to consider our request for robust funding for this important program.

Sincerely,


Donald S. Beyer Jr.


Pramila Jayapal


Jamie Raskin


Suzanne Bonamici


Ro Khanna


Alcee L. Hastings



Tulsi Gabbard


Scott H. Peters

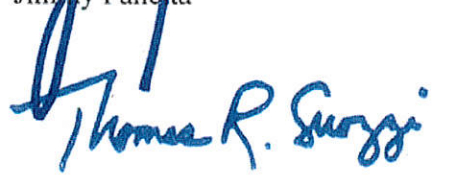

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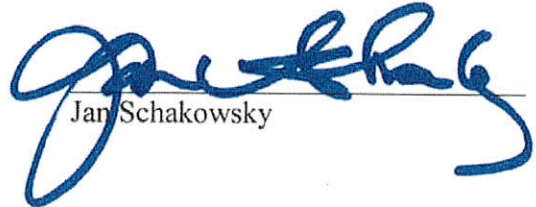
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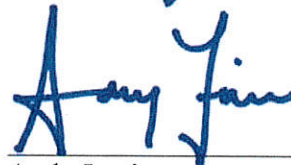
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