

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2019

The Honorable José E. Serrano
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholt:

As you work to finalize the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2020, we respectfully request that you:

- Provide \$27.6 million for NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program, the enacted level for fiscal year 2019;
- Provide \$18 million for NOAA Costal Science and Assessment, Competitive External Research, consistent with the enacted level for fiscal year 2019; and
- Include the below report language reaffirming the Subcommittee's support for collaborative research with external academic institutions for the conservation of coral reefs.

PROGRAM REQUESTS:

NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRP): \$27.6 million

Coral reefs provide essential protections for our Nation's island and coastal communities. Healthy, resilient coral reefs safeguard against severe weather, shoreline erosion, and coastal flooding, and serve as natural breakwaters for important maritime ports and harbors of refuge. Coral reefs also support high-paying American jobs in the tourism, recreation, boating, and fishing industries. NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRP) helps safeguard this invaluable natural infrastructure through federal action, research, and grant support for local conservation projects across the United States. We appreciate the Subcommittee's past support for NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program and hope that you will also provide level funding at \$27.6 million for fiscal year 2020.

NOAA Coastal Science and Assessment, Competitive External Research (CER): \$18 million

We support funding for Coastal Science and Assessment, Competitive External Research within NOAA. Congress has directed NOAA to assist states and territories in addressing threats to coral reefs and to prevent and mitigate damage to U.S. coral reef ecosystems. Our Nation's marine laboratories, Sea Grant institutions, and coral reef institutes are engaged deeply in vital scientific research that responds to local management needs and promotes stewardship of coral reefs and resiliency. We hope the Subcommittee will support this vital work by providing stable funding at \$18 million for the Competitive External Research line-item, so that much-needed federal grant-making and collaboration with NOAA may continue.


REPORT LANGUAGE REQUEST: NOAA Coastal Science and Assessment, Competitive External Research

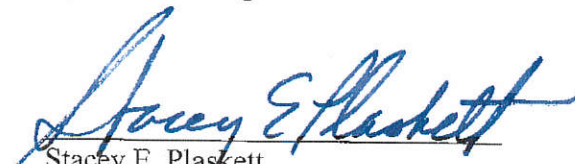
“Competitive External Research.—The Committee supports collaboration between NOAA and external academic institutions that conduct scientific research for the conservation of corals and coral reef ecosystems within U.S. waters. The Committee recognizes that the science sponsored through such collaboration is important for management of these coral reefs and for effective implementation of the National Coral Reef Action Strategy, especially with regard to the identification of local action strategies for addressing key threats in each of the jurisdictions that have coral reefs within their boundaries.”

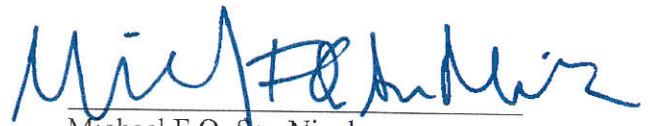
We appreciate your past support for these important NOAA programs for coral reef conservation and related research. Thank you for your leadership on the Subcommittee and for considering our requests.

Sincerely,


Jennifer González-Colón
Member of Congress

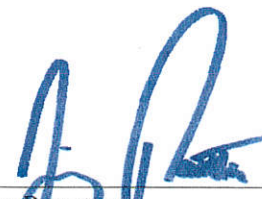

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Member of Congress


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Member of Congress


Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

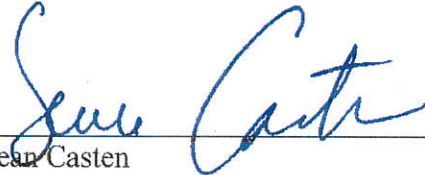

Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen
Member of Congress



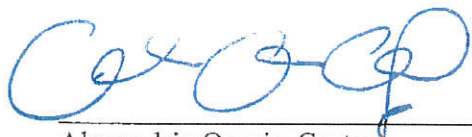
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress



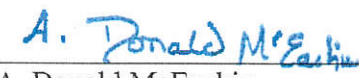
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



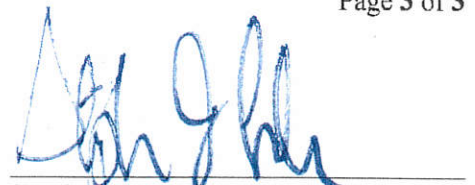
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress




Raja Krishnamoorthi
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A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



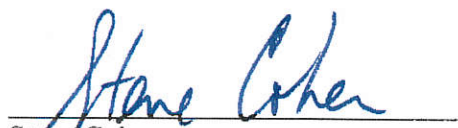
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Francis Rooney
Member of Congress



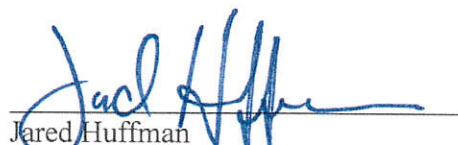
Darren Soto
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