

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 14, 2025

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related
Agencies
H-130 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Meng
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related
Agencies
H-130 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Meng:

We write to thank you for your continued support of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). We ask the committee to provide the authorized level of \$56 million for IOOS Regional Observations under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Ocean Service in the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations legislation.

IOOS is the nation's leading resource for community-driven coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes information. This vital public-private program supports a vast network of buoys, gliders, high-frequency radars, and other sensors that monitor U.S. waters and provides data, tools, and forecasts to safeguard the entire U.S. coastline. IOOS sustains critical, publicly accessible data and data products that enable coastal and Great Lakes communities to monitor, understand, predict, and plan for hazards that impact coastal infrastructure and people, including storms, flooding, rip currents, and harmful algal blooms. This efficient, reliable, and cost-effective system supports emergency preparedness, underpins a thriving blue economy, and bridges the gap between scientific research, federally certified data, and informed coastal management.

Sustained, reliable, and accessible data are the foundation for understanding and making decisions about our coasts, oceans, and Great Lakes. Our priority is to secure robust funding for the national network of eleven Regional Associations (RAs) that generate and deliver information tailored to the needs of local shippers, fishermen, emergency and resource managers, public health officials, aquaculture farmers, coastal communities, and recreators. The RAs deploy, operate, maintain, or otherwise support more than 1,000 monitoring assets and integrate and serve data from federal and non-federal sources through federally certified regional data centers.

The IOOS program was reauthorized unanimously by Congress in 2020 in a bill that was signed into law by President Trump. This appropriations request is at the program's authorized funding level as outlined in that law. Appropriated funds will sustain operation of the regional coastal observing systems to ensure continuity of data services to communities, industries, and decision-makers. Strong core funding allows IOOS to maximize and strategically grow its impact through leveraged partnerships that provide new predictive capacity for coastal and Great Lakes stakeholders. Fully authorized funding will also advance high-priority initiatives and innovation, including through competitive grants for improvements in ecosystem monitoring, tools related to planning and preparedness for inundation, and detection and forecasting of harmful algal blooms. For example, several IOOS-supported projects are working toward operationalizing a National Harmful Algal Bloom Observing Network – an action that Congress has supported since fiscal year 2021.

IOOS is a single system that supports many needs, making it a cost-effective investment for the American taxpayers. A recent study¹ concluded that the value of the IOOS regional observing system, just to initial users, lies between \$192 million and \$233 million per year, creating an economic value approximately *five times greater* than the current annual investment in the system. Further, the data and information products and services of IOOS support decision-making and innovation for the more than \$432 billion (GDP) ocean-based economy.

The U.S. IOOS Program Office within NOAA’s National Ocean Service (NOS) supports IOOS through grants management and by facilitating collaboration across the regional network and with the 17 federal agencies whose missions IOOS supports. Therefore, robust funding for the NOS Navigation, Observations, and Positioning budget line is also needed to ensure sufficient capacity within the NOS line office to maintain efficient and effective IOOS program operations. We encourage the Committee to consider this as it appropriates funds for IOOS.

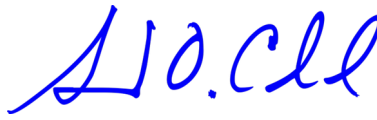
We are grateful for the Committee’s support of IOOS in the fiscal year 2025 appropriations bill and underscore the critical role of this network in delivering crucial information about our waterways and weather to millions of Americans. Continued investment in the nation’s sustained observations is key to furthering understanding of our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. IOOS is essential for safeguarding and enhancing their economic contributions to the nation while helping communities prepare for the risks associated with flood damage, extreme weather events, harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, oil spills, and other hazards. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Committee provide \$56 million to the Regional IOOS program.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



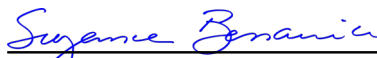
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Mike Ezell
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber, Sr.
Member of Congress

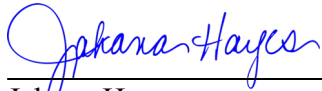


Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

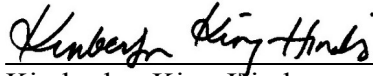


Aumua Amata Coleman
Radewagen
Member of Congress


¹ Colgan, Charles S. and Castelletto, Anthony 2021. The Economic Value of Ocean Observing Systems in the United States: A Prototype User Valuation. Monterey, CA: Center for the Blue Economy, Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey.



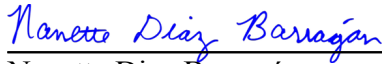
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



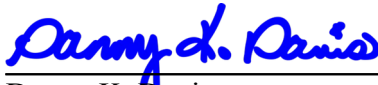
Kimberlyn King-Hinds
Member of Congress



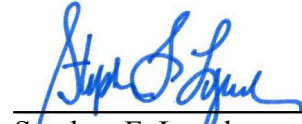
Robin L. Kelly
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Danny K. Davis
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Doris Matsui
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Paul D. Tonko
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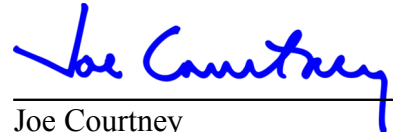
Haley M. Stevens
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Jamie Raskin
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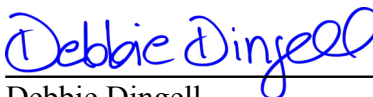
LaMonica McIver
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Jim Tokuda
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Shri Thanedar
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Debbie Dingell
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Mary Gay Scanlon
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Pramila Jayapal
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Marilyn Strickland
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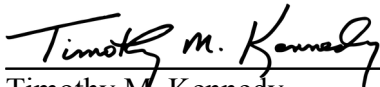
Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



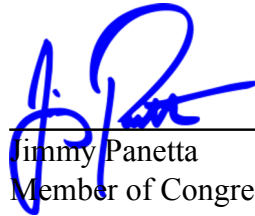
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
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Timothy M. Kennedy
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Jimmy Panetta
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Kim Schrier, M.D.
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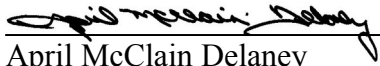
Maxwell Alejandro Frost
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Lisa C. McClain
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Sean Casten
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April McClain Delaney
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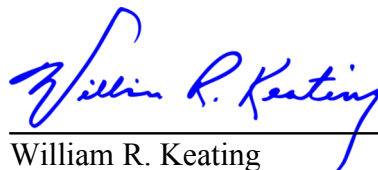
Stacey E. Plaskett
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Mike Thompson
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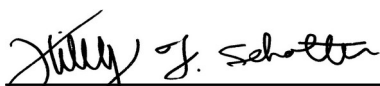
Nicholas J. Begich III
Congressman for All Alaska



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



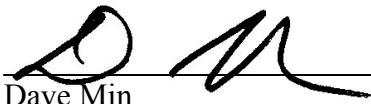
Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



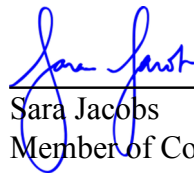
Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress



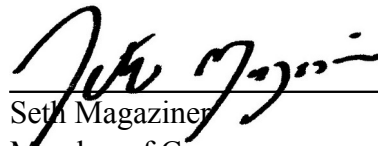
Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander
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Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
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George Latimer
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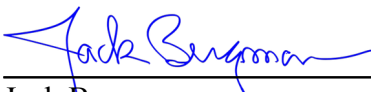
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



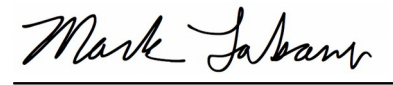
Frank Pallone, Jr.
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Jack Bergman
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Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



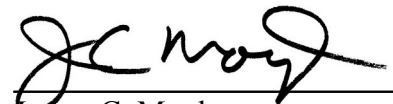
MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



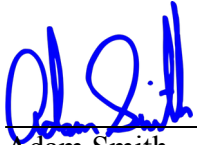
Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



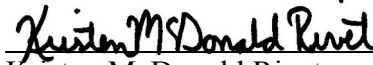
Mike Haridopolos
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James C. Moylan
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



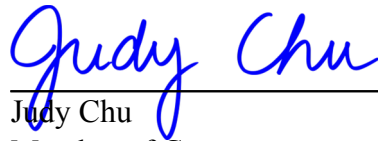
Kristen McDonald Rivet
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Robert Garcia
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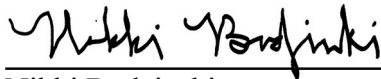
Laura Friedman
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Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, House Natural
Resources Committee



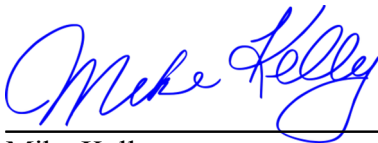
Ted W. Lieu
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Nancy Mace
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
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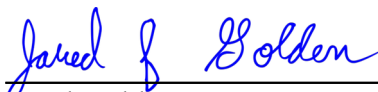
Mike Kelly
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Jan Schakowsky
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Maxine Dexter
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Jared Golden
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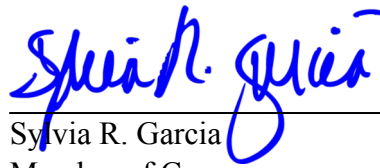
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



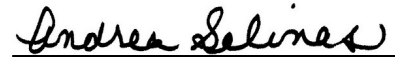
Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress



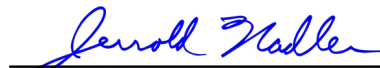
Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
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Robert J. Wittman
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Jerrold Nadler
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Pablo José Hernández
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