



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2020

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

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholt:

We write to encourage increased funding for the *Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring Program* within the Office of Atmospheric and Oceanic Research (OAR) at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a special report on the Ocean and the Cryosphere last year, that found the ocean is absorbing a significant amount of the world's heat and emissions, and they are expected to continue to warm, rise, and become more acidic. NOAA's Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring program operates a diverse portfolio of ocean observing platforms measuring key ocean variables from the surface to great depth across the globe on a variety of time scales to help us better understand the rate at which ocean conditions are changing, and how they are responding to global climate change.

Further, this program is a critical component of our nation's environmental observation system that provides essential data for effective weather forecasts, natural disaster mitigation and preparation, assessment and planning for climate variability and change, and sustainable management of marine ecosystems. Data are also used operationally for military and civilian forecasts of the marine environment for a variety of value-added products including commercial fishing and maritime transportation. In the past decade, all elements of the program have experienced substantial reduction in deliverables and/or degradation of services impacting operational activities and limiting scientific advances important to understanding and improving our weather and climate forecast systems. In addition, the program has been impeded in its ability to adopt new advanced technologies, transition research observations to operations, and address high priority new observing opportunities.

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As you prepare the FY21 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request you consider funding NOAA OAR's Sustained Ocean Observation and Monitoring Program at \$55 million, an increase of \$10 million above FY2020 enacted levels. This funding level is a first step to monitoring and better understanding ocean conditions due to climate change, improving weather forecasting skill; prepare for and mitigate damage from natural disasters including hurricanes, El Niño and La Niña, atmospheric rivers and associated flooding, heat waves, and wildfires; calibrate and validate satellite observations; and utilize data of ocean and atmospheric conditions for drought early warning systems, enhanced tsunami warning systems, and storm surge monitoring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott H. Peters".

Rep. Scott H. Peters

Member of Congress

Rep. Danny K. Davis	Rep. Judy Chu	Rep. William R. Keating	Rep. Jimmy Panetta
Rep. Juan Vargas	Rep. Jerry McNerney	Rep. Ro Khanna	Rep. Robert. C "Bobby" Scott
Rep. Matt Gaetz	Rep. Alan Lowenthal	Rep. Abigail Spanberger	
Rep. Donald S. Beyer Jr.	Rep. Ami Bera	Rep. Seth Moulton	
Rep. Donald McEachin	Rep. Chellie Pingree	Rep. John Garamendi	
Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragán	Rep. Gwen Moore	Rep. Jackie Speier	