

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 8, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Laura Grimm
Acting Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue NW Washington,
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick and Acting Administrator Grimm,

We write to implore you to reject the proposed funding cuts to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as laid out in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Fiscal Year 2026 budget request. NOAA's programs provide essential services to all Americans, and gutting its programs and research would be gravely irresponsible.

In NOAA's FY26 Congressional Justification document, the agency lays out plans to effectively eliminate NOAA's Operations, Research, and Facilities for FY26. This includes a decrease in 216 employees and complete termination of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes.¹

This document also proposes closing down several NOAA facilities across the United States that are in our respective districts. This includes the Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) in Miami, FL; the Air Resources Laboratory (ARL) in College Park, MD, Idaho Falls, ID, and Oak Ridge, TN, Physical Sciences Laboratory (PSL) in Boulder, CO; the Chemical Sciences Laboratory (CSL) in Boulder, CO; the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) in Princeton, NJ; , as well as a nation-wide network of soil moisture sensors; the Global Monitoring Laboratory (GML) in Boulder, CO, Utqiagvik, AK; Mauna Loa, HI; Hilo, HI; Big Island, HI; American Samoa, and the South Pole; and the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) in Seattle. Shutting down these facilities would be devastating for our communities.

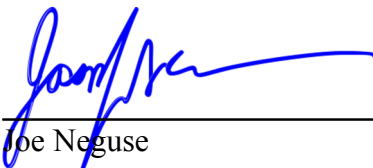
These cuts would also affect Cooperative Institutes (CIs), which are academic and non-profit research institutions that support NOAA's goals, containing 80 universities and institutions across 33 states. CIs are home to experienced researchers and long-standing data collection programs with major impacts on human societies. If these sweeping cuts are made, the damage will be irreversible. Even short-term interruptions in their research could threaten the safety and economies of the communities that CIs serve across the nation.

¹ <https://www.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/NOAA%20FY26%20Congressional%20Justification.pdf>

These cuts would primarily leave tornado and weather research and ocean observation to be reprogrammed to other offices, effectively moving weather research and development under the National Weather Service, while getting rid of most of the people and infrastructure that do this critical work. You cannot simply shuffle a handful of programs across NOAA offices while terminating an entire line office responsible for providing the research base for the agency and expect continued success; to maintain American excellence in this work requires continuity of OAR's core functions as well as its skilled workforce, including at the labs and CIs.

The value NOAA and its programs, like OAR, provide to our communities cannot be overstated. OAR operates research laboratories across the country providing the foundation for understanding and predicting changes in Earth's atmosphere, oceans, and inland waters. This work improves weather and climate forecasts, provides early warnings for natural disasters, and enhances our understanding of Earth's systems. The work our scientists and civil servants do at NOAA is essential to U.S. national security and economic prosperity, as well as the personal safety and daily lives of Americans. Any attempt to gut these essential programs would have devastating effects on Americans. As such, we urge you to reject these proposed funding cuts and facility closures at NOAA.

Sincerely,



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



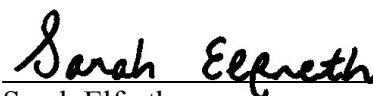
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



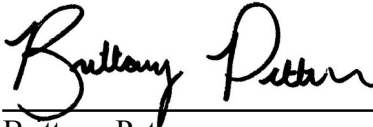
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



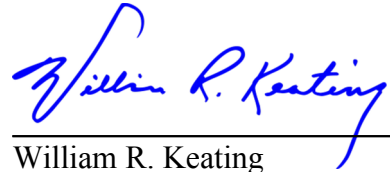
Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



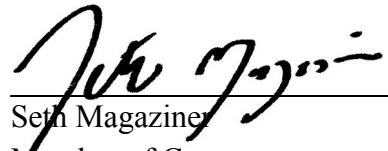
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



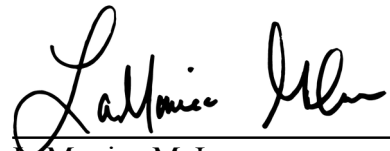
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress



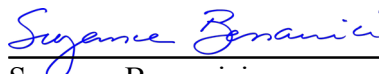
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



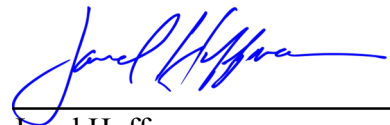
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



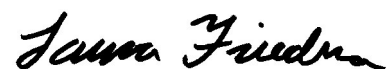
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



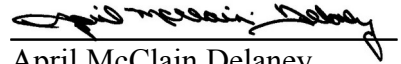
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



JM Tokuda
Member of Congress