

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 8, 2025

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
H-310 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Meng
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
H-310 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Meng,

As you continue crafting the Fiscal Year 2026 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, 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 Physical Sciences Laboratory (PSL) in Boulder, CO; the Chemical Sciences Laboratory (CSL) in Boulder, CO; the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) in Princeton, NJ; Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) in Miami, FL; the Air Resources Laboratory (ARL) in College Park, MD, Idaho Falls, ID, and Oak Ridge, TN, 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

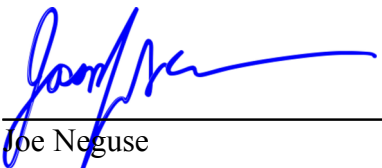
¹ <https://www.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/NOAA%20FY26%20Congressional%20Justification.pdf>

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.

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, and to instead fully fund NOAA in the FY26 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



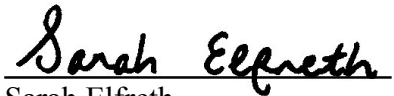
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



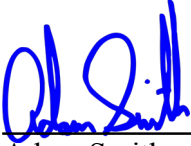
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Bonnie Watson Coleman
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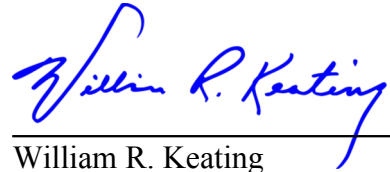
Adam Smith
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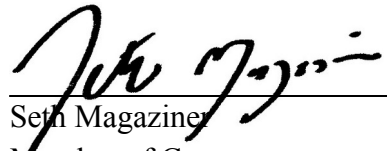
Dina Titus
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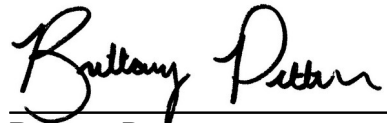
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
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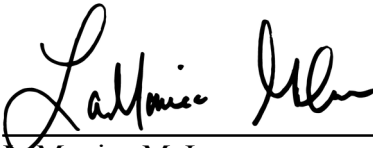
Seth Magaziner
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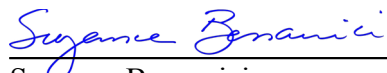
LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



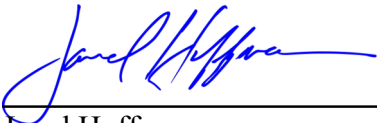
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Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



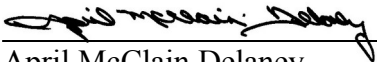
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



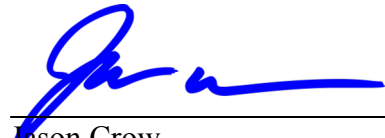
Laura Friedman
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Nellie Pou
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April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
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JM Tokuda
Member of Congress

Cc: Chairman Tom Cole
Cc: Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro