



National Association of Marine Laboratories

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January 9, 2007

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan, Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science
H-309 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML), I am writing to request the opportunity for NAML to provide public witness testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science regarding the Fiscal Year 2008 budgets for the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

NAML is a nonprofit organization of over 120 institutions employing more than 10,000 scientists, engineers, and professionals and representing ocean, coastal and Great Lakes laboratories stretching from Maine to the Gulf of Mexico to the west coast, from Guam to Bermuda and from Alaska to Puerto Rico. NAML labs conduct high quality ocean, coastal and Great Lakes research and education in the natural and social sciences and promote the effective use of that science for decision-making on important issues that face our country. We are careful stewards of federally-funded research involving the oceans, coasts and Great Lakes and thanks to our local connections have the ability to bring the excitement of ocean and marine research, science and education to all Americans.

The success of NAML member labs in providing the best science to policy-makers, however, is commensurate with the budget levels of the competitive extramural research and education programs of NSF, NOAA and NASA. NAML members represent the scientists, educators, and researchers that are in the field, lab and classroom conducting federally-funded ocean, coastal and Great Lakes science, education and outreach projects to solve societal problems and enhance our quality of life. As experts on these issues, we feel we can offer your subcommittee a level of expertise that you cannot get anywhere else.

NAML member labs strive to provide sound science that informs wise policy decisions. As the Subcommittee begins developing its schedule for the upcoming year, we hope you will call-on NAML as a resource for information dealing with the Nation's oceans, coasts and Great Lakes, particularly as it relates to NSF, NOAA and NASA. We look forward to working with you and the Subcommittee

The National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML) is a nonprofit organization of over 120 member institutions representing coastal, marine, and Great Lakes laboratories in every coastal state, stretching from Guam to Bermuda and Alaska to Puerto Rico. Members serve as unique "windows on the sea," providing information on the rich environmental mosaic of coastal habitats as well as offshore oceanic regions and the Great Lakes. NAML member laboratories conduct research and provide a variety of academic, education and public service programs to enable local and regional communities to better understand and manage the ocean, coastal and Great Lake environments. NAML is comprised of three regional associations: the Northeastern Association of Marine and Great Lakes Laboratories (NEAMGLL); the Southern Association of Marine Laboratories (SAML); and the Western Association of Marine Laboratories (WAML).

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this year. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Joel Widder, NAML's Washington representative, if you have any questions or require additional information. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

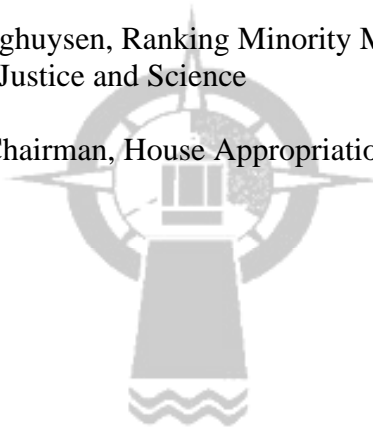


Anthony F. Michaels
NAML President

Director, Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies
University of Southern California

cc: The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Ranking Minority Member, House Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science

The Honorable David Obey, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee



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