



May 17, 2021

Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

The National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML) is pleased to offer its unequivocal endorsement of the President's nomination of Dr. Richard Spinrad to be the next Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The members of NAML are approximately 100 shore-based laboratory facilities directly accessing the marine environment or Great Lakes focused on marine research, education, or outreach.

Dr. Spinrad is an internationally recognized scientist and executive with more than 35 years of experience. He began his career as a research scientist at the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in Maine (a member of NAML). He joined the Office of Naval Research as a program manager in 1987. From 1988 to 1994, Dr. Spinrad served as the director of the ocean biology, optics, and chemistry division and then the director of the ocean, atmosphere and space modeling and prediction division both within the Office of Naval Research. Dr. Spinrad also has experience in the non-profit sector having served as executive director for research and education at the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education, Inc. (CORE) in Washington, D.C. As technical director for the Oceanographer of the United States Navy, Dr. Spinrad served as the senior civilian advisor to the U.S. Navy on operational oceanographic and meteorological research and operations. He also established the priorities for the U.S. Navy investment in application of oceanographic products to fleet operations. President Obama appointed Dr. Spinrad to be NOAA Chief Scientist in 2014 where he served until 2016. Dr. Spinrad has most recently been affiliated with Oregon State University (OSU) first as its Vice President for Research and most recently as a senior advisor to OSU.

The depth and breadth of his experience as a researcher, educator, policy maker, and senior executive in matters related to the NOAA portfolio make him an ideal candidate to lead this important agency. For those reasons, NAML strongly supports the nomination of Dr. Spinrad and urge the Committee to act expeditiously to bring his nomination to the Senate floor for confirmation.

Sincerely,

Robert Dickey
President
National Association of Marine Laboratories