



National Association of Marine Laboratories

January 12, 2024

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 2051

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Shaheen, Chair Rogers, Ranking Member Moran, and Ranking Member Cartwright:

On behalf of the National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML), I am writing to support final FY 2024 appropriations for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). As you conference the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill, **NAML respectfully requests the highest spending levels possible to the following agencies: no less than the \$6.5 billion to NOAA included in the Senate report, no less than the \$9.6 billion to NSF included in the House report, and no less than the \$25.3 billion to NASA included in the House report.** These agencies, including specific programs identified below, are essential to the health and future of our nation and to the research and education ongoing at our member laboratories.

NAML is a network of over 100 place-based marine and Great Lakes laboratories across the nation with a mission to promote excellence in research, education, and public outreach in the marine sciences. NAML also seeks to provide a forum for the resolution of challenges common to nonprofit marine laboratories in the United States and to inform the wise use and conservation of marine and coastal resources. The

Association is committed to establishing an environment of diversity, equity, inclusion, and access in every aspect of NAML's research, education, and outreach enterprise. The ocean science and technology enterprise—through its use and support of marine and Great Lakes laboratories—provides the knowledge, education, and training needed to address challenges faced by coastal communities that drive the ocean economy, which in turn plays a vital role in a thriving U.S. economy.

While increasing funding for these agencies and programs (described below) is of critical importance to our nation, NAML acknowledges the limits put in place by the FY 2024 spending caps. Nevertheless, increased funding to these agencies and programs are essential to the health, security, and future of our nation and to the ongoing research, education, and outreach enterprise at NAML member laboratories. As you finalize FY 2024 appropriations, NAML requests that you fund, at the highest levels possible, programs that enable federal investment in extramural competitive research; infrastructure; observing; and education programs that are sustaining our nation's science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) capabilities and that diversify our talent portfolio by enabling opportunities for, expanding outreach to, and supporting the inclusion of underserved and underrepresented communities. This includes the following programs listed by the agency below.

NOAA

NOAA plays a key role in our nation's security, stability, and prosperity. NAML labs — operating on the frontline of a constantly changing environment — understand more than most how much our nation depends on healthy marine and freshwater resources, how weather and climate hazards challenge the resilience of coastal communities, and how research and education enterprises provide the knowledge and training for decision-makers in our coastal communities.

For these reasons, **NAML respectfully requests funding NOAA at no less than the \$6.5 billion provided by the Senate bill.** Additionally, within NOAA's Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF) Account, we request no less than the:

- \$680.7 million to the National Ocean Service provided in the Senate bill. Also from the Senate report, this includes no less than the
 - \$42.5 million for the Integrated Ocean Observation System Regional Observations
 - \$22.5 million for Competitive Research
 - \$302.0 million for Ocean and Coastal Management and Services, including no less than the
 - \$33.3 million for the National Estuarine Research Reserve System
 - \$68.0 million for the National Marine Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas
- Within funding for the National Marine Fisheries Service, we request, from the Senate report, no less than the:
 - \$4.5 million for the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance grant program
 - \$24.0 million for Aquaculture

- \$661.3 million for the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research included in the Senate report, including no less than the:
 - \$80 million for the National Sea Grant College Program and \$14 million for Sea Grant Aquaculture Research
 - \$46.0 million for Ocean Exploration and Research
 - \$2.5 million for the National Oceanographic Partnership Program
 - \$52.5 million for Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring
- \$35.5 million for the Office of Education included in the Senate report, including no less than the
 - \$8.7 million included for Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Regional Programs
 - \$20.8 million for the Jose E. Serrano Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions
 - \$6.0 million for the Office of Education Program Base

NSF

NSF plays a key role in our nation’s security, stability, and prosperity and provides global leadership in advancing research and education.

NAML respectfully requests Congress fund NSF at no less than the \$9.6 billion included in the House bill. With this increase, NAML urges funding at the following amounts for specific accounts that are no less than the:

- \$7.9 billion included in the House report for Research and Related Activities
- \$1.5 billion included in the House report for STEM Education

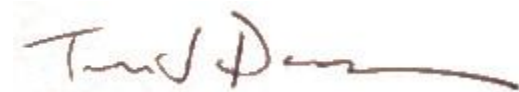
NASA

NASA’s Earth-facing missions, which help us understand our planet on both a large- and a small-scale, are of particular interest to NAML.

NAML respectfully requests funding for Science and Earth Science at no less than the \$7.38 billion included in the House report and the \$2.2 billion included in the Senate report.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide this input to the conference committee’s upcoming deliberation and for your steadfast support of this nation’s research and education enterprise. Thank you for your work on FY 2024 appropriations and for your work to finalize the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



Terry Donaldson
 President
 National Association of Marine Laboratories