Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 11, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman Committee on Appropriations H-307 The Capitol Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers, Chairman Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations H-310 The Capitol Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member Committee on Appropriations 1036 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Meng, Ranking Member Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations 1036 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro, and Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Meng:

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2026 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill, we urge you to maintain strong funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Sea Grant College Program and Sea Grant Aquaculture. While the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request, released on June 30, did not include funds for Sea Grant, we urge you to continue the strong history of bipartisan support for this work.

The Sea Grant program is a federal-state partnership providing critical services in every coastal and Great Lakes state as well as U.S. territories. Sea Grant contributes to making coastal communities more resilient while also aiding our aquaculture industries in navigating federal and state regulations. It supports aquaculture and fishing industries, making sure our seafood is safe to eat, helping our communities be more resilient, and sustaining the health of our coastal waters for everyone's enjoyment, while educating the next generation of scientists, decision makers, and citizens. Grantees leverage federal funding to secure significant additional partner funding for coastal support programs.

While we understand the constrained budget environment you are working with, we urge you to maintain strong funding for the National Sea Grant College Program and Sea Grant Aquaculture, continuing key federal investments in our coastal industries and communities.

Sincerely,

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Adam Smith

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