

February 10, 2009

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on
Commerce, Science and Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Rockefeller and Ranking Member Hutchison:

The undersigned organizations representing supporters, stakeholders, and partners of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are writing to express our enthusiastic endorsement of Dr. Jane Lubchenco as the next Administrator of NOAA. We urge her speedy confirmation.

NOAA is the leading agency in the Federal Government responsible for providing decision makers with critically important data, products, and services that promote and enhance the nation's economy, national security, environmental protection, and our overall quality of life. As priorities shift to adjust to emerging challenges, such as climate change, NOAA too must adapt. NOAA needs a leader who will let science be their guide and will facilitate the structural and policy changes needed to ensure that NOAA is positioned to tackle the priorities of today and the challenges of tomorrow.

In this regard, it will be paramount for NOAA to enhance its partnership with the external community including industry, research and education. Given her background as a researcher and educator, we have no doubt Dr. Lubchenco appreciates the role of the extramural community in informing policy decisions through sound science. However, NOAA has not made significant efforts to engage the external scientific community, especially when compared to its sister science agencies throughout the Federal Government. We are hopeful that enhanced support for external NOAA research will be among Dr. Lubchenco's early priorities if confirmed as NOAA Administrator.

The intersection of science and policy is where NOAA needs to be. Dr. Lubchenco's leadership will establish NOAA as a premier scientific agency by intimately linking science with policy and will position the U.S. as a leader in the global environmental community. We urge the Senate to confirm Dr. Jane Lubchenco as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

AccuWeather, Inc.
American Meteorological Society
American Society of Limnology and Oceanography
American Weather & Climate Industry Association
Annis Water Resources Institute, Grand Valley State University
Arizona State University

Association of Zoos and Aquariums
 Belle W. Baruch Institute for Marine & Coastal Sciences, University of South Carolina
 California Polytechnic State University Center for Coastal Marine Sciences
 Campaign for Environmental Literacy
 Chesapeake Biological Lab, UCMES
 Dr. Rita R. Colwell, Director, National Science Foundation, 1998-2004
 Dauphin Island Sea Lab
 Duke University Marine Laboratory
 Ecological Society of America
 Environmental Defense Fund
 Florida Institute of Oceanography
 Florida International University Southeast Environmental Research Center
 F.T. Stone Laboratory
 Great Lakes WATER Institute, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
 Grice Marine Laboratory, College of Charleston
 Hatfield Marine Science Center, Oregon State University
 Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
 Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute
 Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences Rutgers University The State University of New Jersey
 Kewalo Marine Lab, University of Hawaii
 Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole
 Marine Programs at the University of Connecticut
 Maryland Sea Grant
 Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, California State University
 Mote Marine Laboratory, Inc.
 National Association of Marine Laboratories
 National Federation of Regional Associations
 North Carolina State University, Center for Marine Sciences and Technology
 The Ocean Foundation
 The Ocean Project
 Ohio Sea Grant College Program, The Ohio State University
 Old Dominion University
 Perry Institute for Marine Science
 Restore America's Estuaries
 Roger Williams University
 Romberg Tiburon Center, San Francisco State University
 Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami
 Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Marine Laboratory
 Savannah State University Marine Sciences
 Shannon Point Marine Center
 Shoals Marine Laboratory
 Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
 Stony Brook University School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences
 UCLA Institute of the Environment
 United Fishermen's Marketing Association, Inc.
 University Corporation for Atmospheric Research

University of Delaware College of Marine and Earth Studies
University of Florida Marine Laboratory at Seahorse Key
University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute, Center of Marine Biotechnology
University of New England
University of New Hampshire Marine Program
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Marine Sciences Program
University of Oklahoma
University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography Biological Faculty
University of Texas at Austin Marine Science Institute
University of Washington Friday Harbor Laboratories
Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary
WeatherBank, Inc.
The Weather Channel
The Weather Coalition
Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience of the University of Florida
Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Southern California