

CAMPAIGN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

September 11, 2007

The Honorable Alan Mollohan
Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
The Capitol H-310
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies Committee
on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Longworth House Office Building 1016
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mollohan and Representative Frelinghuysen;

On behalf of environmental education organizations, educators, students, and industry partners throughout the nation, we write to you today to thank you heartily for your support of environmental education in the Fiscal Year 2008 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill.

The provision of \$20 million in new climate change education funding for NASA and NSF, as well as the big boost in NOAA's environmental education program funding above the budget request, demonstrates great foresight; and this has been well received by the environmental education community's nearly ten million constituents around the country. We have asked the Senate to support these additional funds. We look forward to possibility of working with these agencies and you to help develop a thoughtful and strategic approach to the use of these funds that will make a significant difference in the nation's understanding of climate change.

As you prepare for conference with the Senate on this measure, we respectfully request that you recede to the Senate's \$12 million allocation for NOAA's education program/initiatives and the additional \$12 million for the BWET Regional programs. An expansion of both these proven, successful programs to \$12 million each will help NOAA to better meet its stewardship mandate by further developing the public's understanding of key ocean and atmospheric concepts, as well as to better fulfill its educational function as envisioned by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the America COMPETES Act.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact James L. Elder, at elder@FundEE.org or 978-526-7768.

cc: The Honorable David Obey, Chair, House Appropriations Committee

Co-Signatories:

Aquarium of the Pacific	(Jerry R. Schubel, President and CEO)
American Meteorological Society	(Keith Seitter, Executive Director)
Association of Nature Center Administrators	(Jen Levy, Executive Director)
Association of Zoos and Aquariums	(Steve Olson, Director of Government Affairs)
Campaign for Environmental Literacy	(James L. Elder, Director)
Chesapeake Bay Foundation	(Don Baugh, Vice President for Education)
Coalition for Community Schools	(Martin J. Blank, Staff Director)
Council of Environmental Deans and Directors	(Bruce Coull, President)
Council on Environmental Education	(Josetta Hawthorne, Executive Director)
Council on Oceanographic Research and Education	(RADM Richard West, President & CEO)
Earth Day Network	(Kathleen Rogers, President)
Earth Force	(Vince Meldrum, President)
Ecological Society of America	(Teresa Mourad, Director of Education)
National Association for Interpretation	(Tim Merriman, Executive Director)
National Association of Biology Teachers	(Pat Waller, President)
National Association of Marine Laboratories	(Tony Michaels, President)
National Audubon Society	(Judy Braus, Vice President for Education)
National Council for Science and the Environment	(Peter Saundry, Executive Director)
National Marine Sanctuary Foundation	(Lori Arguelles, President and CEO)
National Science Teachers Association	(Jodi Peterson, Director of Legislative Affairs)
National Wildlife Federation	(Kevin Coyle, Vice President for Education)
North American Association for Environmental Education	(Brian Day, Executive Director)
Ocean Alliance	(Jeffrey Kunz, Chairman)
Orion Society	(H. Emerson Blake, Executive Director)
Rural School and Community Trust	(Rachel B. Tompkins, President)
Second Nature	(Anthony Cortese, President)
Society for Conservation Biology	(John Fitzgerald, Policy Director)
The Ocean Project	(Bill Mott, Director)
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research	(Rick Anthes, President)