

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