

January, 21 2009

The Honorable David R. Obey  
Chairman,  
House Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Ranking Member,  
House Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Lewis:

We write on behalf of a diverse coalition of groups that partner with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to thank you for your support of NOAA's programs in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and your recognition of their contribution to the economy. As scientists, educators, outdoor enthusiasts, coastal states, conservationists, and members of industry, we strongly support the \$1 billion for NOAA habitat restoration and satellite programs included in the bill. This funding will create jobs and stimulate local economies while benefiting fish and wildlife, improving coastal ecosystem, and maintaining our ability to predict severe weather events and climate trends.

Coastal communities are major economic engines in many counties, regions and states. More than half of the Nation's GDP is generated in coastal counties. An economic analysis from the Economic Policy Institute estimates that each \$1 million of restoration work generates 20.3 jobs. Based on this estimate, the \$400 million in restoration work included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will generate over 8,000 jobs in coastal communities.

Moreover, this investment in restoration will repair and improve habitats which serve as natural infrastructure for these communities. Restoring wetlands, shellfish reefs, seagrass beds; reestablishing hydrologic flow; replacing road culverts; moving or removing unnecessary levees and derelict dams. These projects restore the long term ecological and economic benefits that flow from healthy coastal ecosystems. In addition to improved water quality, fish passage, and habitat, these landscapes will support commercial and recreational fishing; improve tourism; and create new business and recreational opportunities such as fishing, river rafting and kayaking and associated support services. Finally, green infrastructure projects can reduce hazards through erosion and flood mitigation, or the removal of out-dated, non-functional structures.

The weather and severe storm forecasting services provided by NOAA satellites are critical to almost every sector of our economy. Whether it is the homeland security benefit of predicting major events like hurricane Katrina or support for more everyday functions like managing the energy grid, NOAA satellites play a fundamental role. As the impacts of climate change become more apparent the climate data from NOAA satellites will be increasingly important in helping us understand and plan for potentially

significant changes. The \$600 million included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will serve as an immediate example of addressing the national priority of climate change, and protect high tech jobs now while avoiding gaps in NOAA satellite services in the future.

Thank you again for your support of these NOAA programs. We hope you will continue to recognize their important contributions to the economy and demonstrate continued commitment to providing these investments in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Sincerely,

AccuWeather, Inc.  
Aerospace Industries Association  
Alliance for Earth Observations  
American Geological Institute  
American Littoral Society  
American Meteorological Society  
American Rivers  
American Society of Limnology and  
Oceanography  
American Sportfishing Association  
Artist Boat  
Association of National Estuary Programs  
Association of US delegates to the Gulf of  
Maine Council  
Brandywine Conservancy  
California Conservation Corps  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Coastal States Organization  
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana  
Conservation Law Foundation  
Consortium for Ocean Leadership  
Elizabeth River Project  
Fugro Pelagos, Inc  
Fugro Earth Data, Inc  
Galveston Bay Foundation  
Gulf of Mexico Foundation  
Kenai Watershed Forum  
Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership  
Lynnhaven River NOW  
Mattole Restoration Council  
Musconetcong Watershed Association  
National Estuarine Research Reserve  
Association  
National Federation of Regional Associations  
for Coastal and Ocean Observing  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

National Weather Service Employees  
Organization  
National Association of Marine Laboratories  
New Hampshire Department of Environmental  
Services Dam Removal and River Restoration  
Program  
Marine Conservation Biology Institute  
Norfolk's Division of Environmental Services  
North Carolina Coastal Federation  
Northwest Maritime Center & Wooden Boat  
Foundation  
Ocean Trust  
People For Puget Sound  
Restore America's Estuaries  
Reinsurance Association of America  
Rivanna Conservation Society  
Save the Bay - Narragansett Bay  
Save the Bay - San Francisco  
Save the Sound - Long Island Sound  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
Sea Grant Association  
Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership  
Tampa Bay Watch  
The American Red Cross  
The Bay Institute  
The Friends of St. Andrew Bay  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Weather Channel, Inc.  
Trout Unlimited  
University Corporation for Atmospheric  
Research  
United Fishermen's Marketing Association, Inc.  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce Space Enterprise  
Council  
Weather Coalition  
West Marine  
Wildlife Research Team, Inc.  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute