

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3902

July 8, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20503

Secretary Lutnick and Director Vought,

We write to express our concerns with delays in approving the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Program, Project, or Activity (PPA)-level spend plan governing regional awards for the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). We ask that your agencies work together to quickly review and fully approve this spend plan.


Through its work compiling and distributing data from buoys, satellites, radar stations, and other sensors, IOOS plays an important role in supporting the fishing industry, predicting extreme weather, protecting shipping, and improving our nation's military readiness. IOOS enjoys bipartisan support in Congress. The program received \$42.5 million in funding in FY25 to support its work.

While Congress appropriated \$42.5 million for IOOS in FY25 and the IOOS regional awards have been approved, allowing for regional partners to administer important core functions like buoy and radar operations, the lack of a fully approved PPA-level spend plan limits the programs' other work. In regions including the Northeast, Gulf Coast, Great Lakes, and Alaska, IOOS regional systems need the certainty of a longer-term funding plan to monitor harmful algal blooms, coordinate hurricane glider operations, enhance high-frequency radar systems, and conduct long-term biological observations. This work supports the disaster preparedness, public health, and resilience of our coastal communities.

NOAA needs to have its spend plan for IOOS fully approved by mid-July in order to make awards to support these critical functions this year. Further delays could render NOAA and regional IOOS systems unable to fully utilize these funds in FY25, running counter to congressional intent and endangering our coastal communities.

We appreciate your attention to these concerns and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

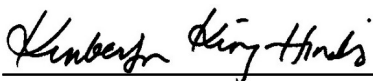
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Seth Moulton
Member of Congress




Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



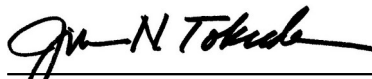
Kimberlyn King-Hinds
Member of Congress



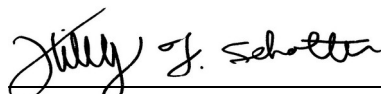
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



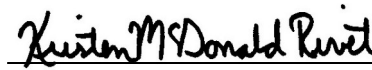
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



JM Tokuda
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress

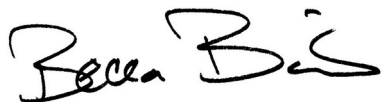


Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

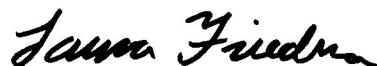


Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

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Becca Balint
Member of Congress



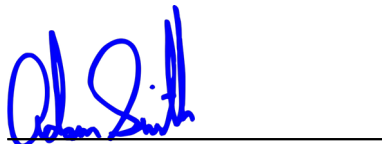
Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Aumua Amata Coleman
Radewagen
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

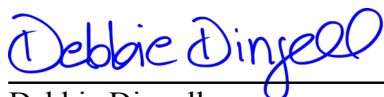


Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress

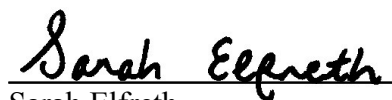
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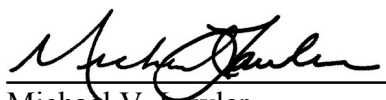
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



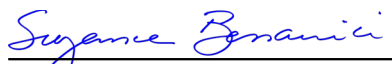
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



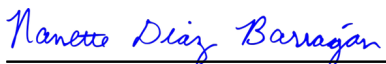
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

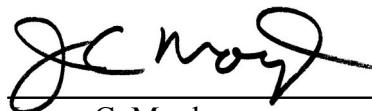


Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

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Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress




James C. Moylan
Member of Congress



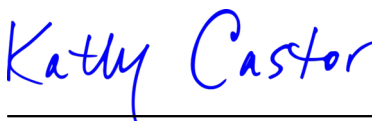
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



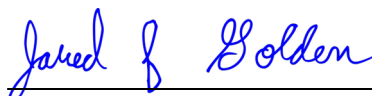
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Jared Golden
Member of Congress



Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress




Mike Haridopolos
Member of Congress

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nicholas J. Begich III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Nicholas J. Begich III
Congressman for All Alaska