

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 11, 2018

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman
Commerce, Justice, Science and
Related Agencies Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Commerce, Justice, Science and
Related Agencies Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Shaheen:

As you work to draft the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, we urge you to reject the administration's proposed elimination of the National Sea Grant College base program. We are grateful that the committee included an increase for this program in FY 2018, particularly as the increase was given in a challenging budget environment. For FY 2019, we continue to support at least the current funding level of \$65 million for Sea Grant. Furthermore, we are aware that the Sea Grant Association has recommended \$73 million in funding to carry out their important work.

As senators from some of the states with Sea Grant programs, we see firsthand how this federal investment is leveraged locally to bring immense returns to coastal communities, fishermen, universities, and students. Any cuts to this funding would have a devastating impact and we strongly urge you to reject any proposals to reduce this program.

Sea Grant's work supporting waterfront and maritime businesses speaks for itself. The federal investment in Sea Grant centers yields \$611 million in economic benefit, an 825% return on federal investment. This economic impact includes creating and sustaining 1,300 local businesses and 7,100 jobs.¹ In 2016, Sea Grant has helped 19,900 fishers adopt sustainable fishing practices and trained 2,002 people in safe seafood handling methods.²

Sea Grant staff also assist communities with projects to become more resilient and preserve coastline habitat. In 2016, Sea Grant staff helped 300 communities improve coastal resiliency, aided 494 communities in adopting sustainable development practices, and supported 4,600 resource managers in using ecosystem-based management strategies. They also helped preserve or protect 1,400,000 acres of wildlife habitat.³

¹ "A Smart Investment in our coastal Economy". Sea Grant. December 2017.

<http://seagrants.noaa.gov/Portals/0/Documents/Handouts/2018-Seagrant-Factsheet-Dec2017-Final-Accessible.pdf>

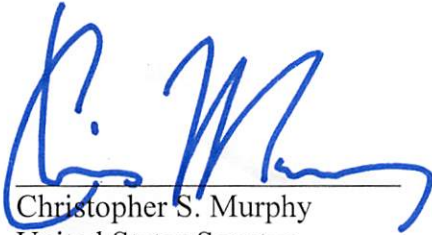
² "Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture". Sea Grant. <http://seagrants.noaa.gov/Our-Work/SFA>

³ "A Smart Investment in our coastal Economy". Sea Grant. <http://seagrants.noaa.gov/Portals/0/Documents/Handouts/2018-Seagrant-Factsheet-Dec2017-Final-Accessible.pdf>


Finally, Sea Grant is helping to educate the next generation of freshwater and marine scientists. Last year, Sea Grant programs reached 781,000 K-12 students and in 2016 Sea Grant supported over 2,300 undergraduate and graduate students.⁴

Sea Grant is vital to local businesses and an important part of preserving coastal communities for generations to come. We continue to support robust funding for Sea Grant at a minimum of the current funding level of \$65 million and acknowledge the recommendations of up to \$73 million in funding.

Sincerely,




Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



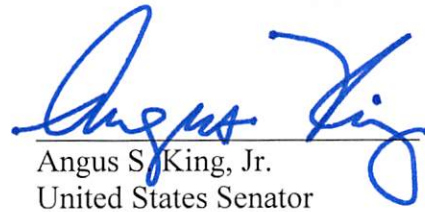
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United States Senator




Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
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Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator




Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Tom Carper
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

⁴ A Smart Investment in our coastal Economy". <http://seagrant.noaa.gov/Portals/0/Documents/Handouts/2018-Seagrant-Factsheet-Dec2017-Final-Accessible.pdf>

James M. Collins

Wm. H. Brown

John J. Taylor

John J. Taylor

John J. Taylor

J. M. [unclear]


B. H. Cassidy, M.D.

Wm. H. Brown

Edward J. Murphy

James J. [unclear]

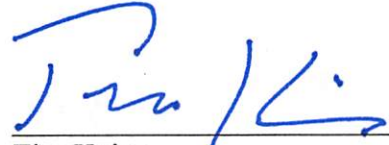

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United States Senator


Sherrod Brown
United States Senator


Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

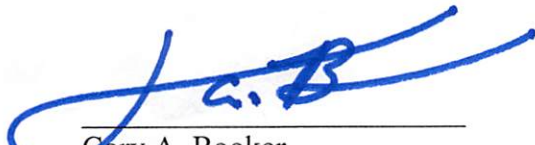

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

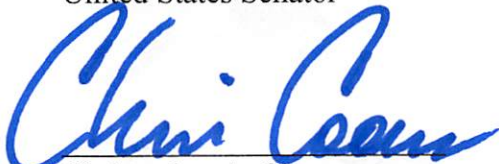

Tim Kaine
United States Senator


Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

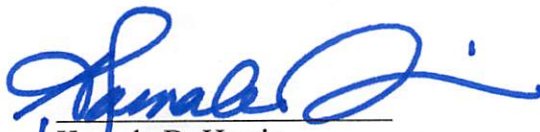

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

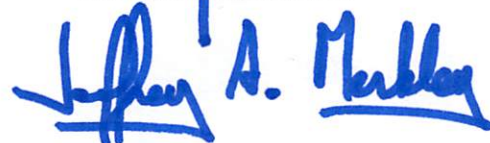

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator


Tina Smith
United States Senator


Bernard Sanders
United States Senator


Elizabeth Warren
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Kamala D. Harris
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Jeff Merkley
United States Senator

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