

# FRIENDS OF NOAA COALITION

<http://www.friendsofnoaa.org/>

December 12, 2006

Honorable Robert Portman  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Portman:

The Friends of NOAA Coalition respectfully urges the Administration to support the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) with a budget request for fiscal year 2008 of \$4.5 billion. This level is consistent with the budget recommended in both fiscal year 2006 and fiscal year 2007 by the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee.

As the Administration continues to develop its fiscal year 2008 budget proposal, we believe that this level of funding for NOAA is necessary to ensure that the agency is able to carry out its overriding missions which directly impact the nation's economic, social, homeland security, and environmental needs. NOAA and its partners are poised to significantly enhance the delivery of vital information and services that will assist decision and policy makers at all levels in meeting society's needs while ensuring continued economic growth and the wise management of our natural resources.

The services, information, research and education provided by NOAA touch the lives of every American. The funding level recommended by the Senate Appropriations Committee and this Coalition would enable the agency to: provide accurate and up-to-date weather forecasting; conserve coastal and marine habitats and living marine resources; ensure continued public access to the benefits derived from these resources; improve fisheries management; predict and track information related to severe weather; provide greater access to navigational information; exploration, and advance weather, climate, and ocean-related scientific research and education.

Additionally, the recommended funding level will allow better integration of NOAA's many activities, including its valuable life-saving services, such as those displayed during Hurricane Katrina. The integration and synthesis of information derived from NOAA and other federal agency observing and monitoring systems, such as satellites, buoys at sea, coastal and ocean observatories, and weather stations, along with an educated and trained workforce, holds immense promise for significantly advancing our nation's capacity to protect public health and safety while enhancing access to cherished ocean and coastal resources.

The Members of the Friends of NOAA Coalition appreciate the difficult budgetary constraints facing the Administration for fiscal year 2008. However, we also believe that NOAA and its partners make vital and direct contributions to the health, safety, and continued economic development of our country and thus deserve a commensurate level of support for fiscal year 2008.

We appreciate your consideration of these views and request that you contact Kevin Wheeler, at 202-448-1291 or Joel Widder at 202-289-7475 if you have any questions regarding this letter or the work of the Coalition.

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The **Friends of NOAA** are supporters, stakeholders, partners, and unionized employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and exist to encourage the White House and the Congress to provide appropriate support for the agency as it carries out its mission of saving lives and livelihoods. For information about the Friends of NOAA, please visit [www.FriendsofNOAA.org](http://www.FriendsofNOAA.org).

Sincerely,

University Corporation for Atmospheric Research  
Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education  
Reinsurance Association of America  
American Red Cross  
The Weather Coalition  
West Marine  
United Fishermen's Marketing Association, Inc.  
AccuWeather, Inc  
WeatherBank, Inc  
Fugro Pelagos, Inc.  
National Weather Service Employees Organization  
Sea Grant Association  
National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges  
Coastal States Organization  
National Estuarine Research Reserve Association  
UCLA Institute of the Environment  
National Association of Marine Laboratories  
Skidaway Institute of Oceanography  
University of Washington  
Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences  
Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, University of Oregon  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
Environmental Defense  
Institute for Exploration  
Dauphin Island Sea Lab  
Center for Coastal Studies, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies  
Mote Marine Laboratory  
Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences  
University of Oklahoma  
Council of Environmental Deans and Directors  
National Marine Sanctuary Foundation  
North Carolina State University  
Surfrider  
USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies  
Marine Conservation Biology Institute  
Association of Zoos and Aquariums  
American Rivers  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
Savannah State University  
Hatfield Marine Science Center  
National Council for Science and the Environment  
Council of Environmental Deans and Directors (NCSE)  
American Society of Limnology and Oceanography  
National Fisheries Institute  
International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers  
University of Missouri  
Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, SUNY Albany

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National Federation of Regional Associations  
Purdue University  
Vaisala Inc.  
Cornell University  
Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)  
North Carolina State University  
RS Information Systems  
Florida State University  
Marine Technology Society  
Planetary Data, Incorporated  
American Association of State Climatologists  
Alliance for Earth Observations  
American Geophysical Union  
Joint Ocean Commission Initiative  
The Ocean Foundation

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