12 August 2016

Dear Senators McConnell, Reid, Cochran, and Mikulski:

As supporters, stakeholders, employees, and partners of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Friends of NOAA (FoNOAA) would like to thank you for the increase in discretionary funding provided in the CJS Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2017. However, we are concerned about cuts in the bill to NOAA’s budget, and request that you fund the agency at $6.05 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017. In order to ensure a stable funding environment for NOAA, and its programs that benefit our nation’s economic stability, national security, and human safety, we urge you and all of the members of the 114th Congress to complete the FY 2017 appropriations process this year.

NOAA is essential to our country’s economy, security, environment, and quality of life. Federal investment in the agency benefits all Americans, not just those who live along the coast or hold one of the 2.8 million jobs in ocean-dependent industries. These benefits include timely and accurate weather forecasts and warnings, essential environmental data and information, maintenance and sustainability of healthy oceans and coasts, informed and productive fishery management, the creation and operation of innovative and cutting-edge polar orbiting and geostationary satellites, and world-class research and development. A failure to adequately fund the agency would have wide-reaching harmful impacts to our economy, national security, and environmental resilience.

We applaud the dedication, bipartisan collaboration, and hard work of members and congressional staff that resulted in both House and Senate Appropriations Committees passing all 12 spending bills for the first time in years. We strongly encourage Congress to avoid an extended CR and complete the FY 2017 appropriations process through regular order by the end of the calendar year to ensure NOAA
programs are better able to support America's economy, security, environment, and quality of life.

FoNOAA appreciates your work to increase top-line CJS funding, and we understand the budgetary constraints that Congress must work within. However, following August recess, we hope that members will work to complete the appropriation process and fund NOAA at $6.05 billion in FY 2017. We look forward to working with you to ensure a bright future for NOAA.

If Friends of NOAA can be of service or provide additional information, please contact us at info@friendsofnoaa.org.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Friends
of
NOAA