Dear Mr. Chairman and Mrs. Hutchinson:

On behalf of the 100 members of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, I am writing to express our strong support for Dr. Scott Doney as the chief scientist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Ocean Leadership represents the nation’s leading public and private ocean research and education institutions, aquaria, and industry. Dr. Doney’s work as a researcher at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the National Center for Atmospheric Research provides him with a solid foundation to succeed as NOAA’s chief scientist. We are very pleased he has been nominated for this position. Dr. Doney is a well known and highly accomplished scientist with research interests in ocean acidification and the global carbon cycle. His expertise in the field of climate change will be well served as NOAA and the broader federal government continue to tackle its impacts.

In the face of these challenges to the nation and its resources, Earth science programs in federal agencies need capable leadership to guide the development and implementation of adaptation, mitigation and response strategies now more than ever. Dr. Doney’s experience in the academic community will help optimize and capitalize on the assets and tools being brought to bear on these issues by NOAA. In the position of chief scientist, Dr. Doney will use his scientific background and experience to enable the proper application of research in management and policy decisions.

Our nation’s oceans and coasts offer vast potential benefits and numerous and complex challenges. With Dr. Doney’s leadership as chief scientist, NOAA will have an expert ready to assist the agency to address the environmental and climatic challenges facing this nation.
We strongly encourage Senate confirmation of Dr. Doney as the next chief scientist of NOAA.

On a more personal note, I have known Dr. Doney since he was a graduate student. His integrity, scientific acumen and high personal values will serve NOAA and the country well as we enter a new era in predicting, mitigating and adapting to the environmental changes facing our nation.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Gagosian
President and CEO
Consortium for Ocean Leadership