August 21, 2018

The Honorable John Thune  
Chairman

Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson:

On behalf of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership (COL), which represents our nation’s leading ocean science, research, and technology organizations from academia, industry, and aquaria, I want to express my support for the nomination of Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier to be director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). His vast experience with both geoscience and science policy make him a decidedly qualified nominee to lead OSTP and help set federal science priorities.

At a time when the changing climate and ocean threaten our security and prosperity, his expertise in atmospheric science will prove invaluable in guiding the critical work OSTP does advising the executive branch on crucial scientific challenges and opportunities related to earth sciences that face our nation, and in reviewing associated federal funding priorities.

In addition to his impressive science credentials (including 33 years as faculty at the University of Oklahoma in Norman and serving as the school’s vice president for research since 2009), Dr. Droegemeier is no stranger to the intersection of scientific research and public policy. During his 12-year tenure on the National Science Board (including four years as vice chair), he helped guide many National Science Foundation initiatives and task forces, and as Oklahoma’s Secretary of Science and Technology, he advised the governor on science and technology strategies for the state. His time spent in academia, public service, and the private sector would serve him well in this role.

COL looks forward to working with Dr. Droegemeier on ensuring that sound science continues to underpin our national policy decisions and that federal science agencies receive the resources they need to successfully fulfill their missions. I hope the committee (followed by the Senate) moves quickly to review and confirm Dr. Droegemeier to this position, which has been unfilled for nearly 600 days.

Respectfully,

Jonathan W. White, RADM (Ret.), USN  
President and CEO

Consortium for Ocean Leadership