June 10, 2019

Congressman Jimmy Panetta
212 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0520

Dear Congressman Panetta:

On behalf of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, which represents our nation’s leading ocean science, research, and technology organizations from academia, industry, and philanthropy (to include aquariums), I am writing to express support for the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3161). The importance of ocean science and technology in ensuring a healthy ocean, which in turn safeguards our national, homeland, energy, food, water, and economic securities, as well as our public health and safety, is a concept I refer to as “ocean security.” H.R. 3161 would enhance our ocean security, ensuring the above-mentioned securities are upheld and guaranteeing the safety and survival of our nation and its people.

For more than 20 years, NOPP has facilitated partnerships among public and private ocean stakeholders, advancing ocean science research and education in the national interest. The changes effectuated by this revitalization would serve to further strengthen the program, promoting national goals related to economic development, national security, and ocean health. A strong, effective NOPP is essential to our entire nation. The program’s advancement of collaboration and partnerships enables our many federal agencies with ocean interests to leverage resources and brings non-federal stakeholders in a united effort to grow our knowledge of ocean issues integral to ocean security. In the past, NOPP has allowed us to make great strides in ocean observations, education, resource management, and more, and I look forward to seeing what the future holds with a rejuvenated and revitalized program enabled by this reauthorization.

I offer my sincere thanks to Congressman Panetta for your leadership on this issue and for introducing this important piece of legislation that will grow our ocean understanding and safeguard our maritime nation and our future.

Respectfully,

Jonathan W. White, RADM (Ret.), USN
President and CEO
Consortium for Ocean Leadership