Individual Sample Letter of Support

Sea Grant supporters and partners should send a letter to their Member of Congress and Senators.

1) Find your Members of Congress and Senators by going online to

* [U.S. House of Representatives](http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) and search by your ZIP code
* [U.S. Senate](https://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/) search by your state.
1. Copy and paste and personalize the Sample letter below

**\*\*\*\*\*Sample Letter\*\*\*\*\***

Date
The Honorable **[first name, last name]**
U.S. House of Representatives **[or U.S. Senate]**
Washington, D.C. 20515 **[or 20510 for the Senate]**

Dear Representative/Senator **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**:

The National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) is a joint federal-state investment that supports the health and resilience of the Nation’s coastal communities (including the Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico and communities on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts), yielding quantifiable economic, social, and environmental benefits at the national, regional, state, and local levels. Sea Grant is a unique program within NOAA that sends 95% of its appropriated funds to coastal states through a competitive process to solve problems that are identified as critical by public and private sector constituents and our nation’s coastal communities.

The Sea Grant Program has 100s of private sector supporters from aquaculture farmers to fisherman…. enclosed please find a list of our private sector partners.

I am writing to request your support for the National Sea Grant Program. I would appreciate you sending a programmatic request to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies and support for:

Program: National Sea Grant College Program

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Account: Operations, Research, and Facilities

Office: Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

FY 2016 Funding Level: $73M

FY 2017 Funding Level (CR): $73M

FY 2018 SGA Recommendation: $80M

FY 2018 Report Language Proposal: $80.0 million is provided to the National Sea Grant College Program for research, education, extension, and outreach activities. This funding level supports the key focus areas in the program’s strategic plan: sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, resilient communities and economies, healthy coastal ecosystems, and environmental literacy and workforce development. The Committee directs NOAA to continue funding all Sea Grant STEM education and fellowship programs.

Fact sheets on Sea Grant results as well as information on why Sea Grant is a smart investment in our coastal economy are attached.

Sincerely,

**[Your name, institutional affiliation, and contact information with mailing address and email]**

**If you work for a state or federal agency it is assumed that you are contacting federal officials on your personal time and therefore you should sign with your home mailing address and email.**

**\*\*\*\*\*End\*\*\*\*\***