National Letter of Support

National organizations that wish to convey respect for Sea Grant should send a letter directly to the Appropriations Committees.

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

Date

Honorable Richard Shelby Honorable Jeanne Shaheen

Chairman Ranking Minority Member

Subcommittee on Commerce, Subcommittee on Commerce

Justice, Science Justice, Science

Committee on Appropriations Committee on Appropriations

U.S. Senate U.S. Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510 Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable John Culberson Honorable Jose Serrano

Chairman Ranking Minority Member

Subcommittee on Commerce, Subcommittee on Commerce

Justice, Science Justice, Science

Committee on Appropriations Committee on Appropriations

U.S. House of Representatives U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Shelby and Culberson, and Ranking Members Shaheen and Serrano:

The National Sea Grant College Program 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. This is done through the establishment of efficient, cost-effective partnerships between state universities, NOAA, coastal communities and businesses –who all share in the costs of solutions – resulting in a leveraging of nearly $3 for every $1 appropriated by Congress.

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

I am writing to request your support for the National Sea Grant Program.

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 also enclosed.

Sincerely,

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

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