

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2019

Chairman José Serrano
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Robert Aderholt
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholt:

As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we urge your support for the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Sea Grant College Program—a program critically important to shoreline states throughout the country.

Across the nation, thirty-three universities participate in the National Sea Grant Program—a federal-state partnership which provides critical services to a wide range of constituents in every coastal and Great Lakes state, and U.S. territories. Sea Grant contributes to making coastal communities more resilient while also aiding our aquaculture industries in navigating federal and state regulations. In this sense, Sea Grant serves as the coastal, marine-based equivalent of Agriculture Extension programs.

With imported seafood making up 90% of American seafood consumption, our nation should be focusing on programs to expand and improve our domestic aquaculture industry. Sea Grant is a program that does just that—helping fishermen and shellfish farmers navigate a complex patchwork of state and federal coastal zone management regulations through technical assistance. Sea Grant works with local producers to grow and sustain their business models while connecting them to local resources to share best practices.


The economic impact of the Sea Grant Program highlights the benefit of this federal investment. According to the 2017 performance metrics of the program, Sea Grant contributed to creating and sustaining 12,500 jobs and provided assistance to nearly 17,700 fishermen. On top of job creation and technical assistance, Sea Grant helped restore a staggering 700,000 acres of coastal ecosystems. Further, the program contributed to \$579 million in economic impact—nearly half of our nation's \$1.2 billion aquaculture economy.

The National Sea Grant Program is a known job creator that is highly leveraged to maximize the effectiveness of federal investment. This program serves as the primary resource for our coastal

small businesses and fishing communities. We urge you to continue your support for this important program.

Sincerely,


JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress


LEE M. ZELDIN
Member of Congress


ROBERT E. LATTA
Member of Congress


JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress

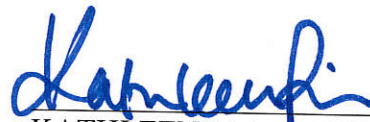

BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress


JOHN KATKO
Member of Congress


DENNY HECK
Member of Congress


FREDERICA S. WILSON
Member of Congress


DONALD NORCROSS
Member of Congress


KATHLEEN M. RICE
Member of Congress

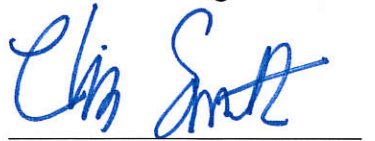

HAKEEM JEFFRIES
Member of Congress



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress


GEGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Member of Congress


ROSA L. DELAURO
Member of Congress


BILL PASCRELL, JR.
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress

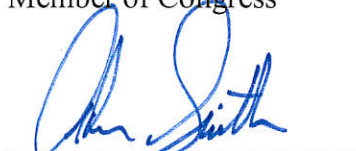

PAUL D. TONKO
Member of Congress


WILLIAM R. KEATING
Member of Congress


SCOTT H. PETERS
Member of Congress


SUZAN K. DELBENE
Member of Congress


NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ
Member of Congress


ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress


SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
Member of Congress


JOHN P. SARBANES
Member of Congress



ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress


MARCIA L. FUDGE
Member of Congress


SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
Member of Congress


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress


ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress

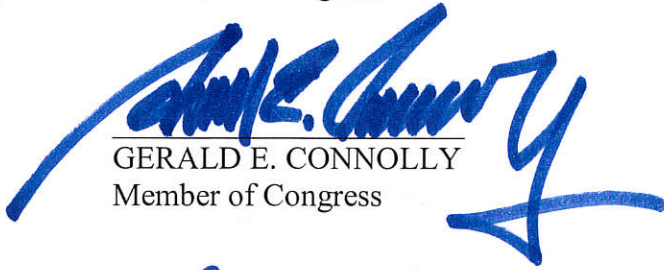

GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress


JUAN VARGAS

Member of Congress


JOAQUIN CASTRO

Member of Congress


GERALD E. CONNOLLY

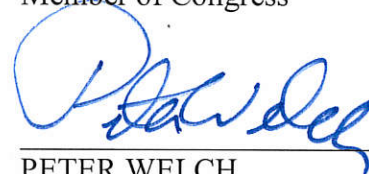
Member of Congress


STEVE STIVERS

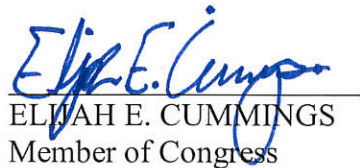
Member of Congress


C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

Member of Congress


PETER WELCH

Member of Congress


ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

Member of Congress


CHELLIE PINGREE


Member of Congress


BILL POSEY

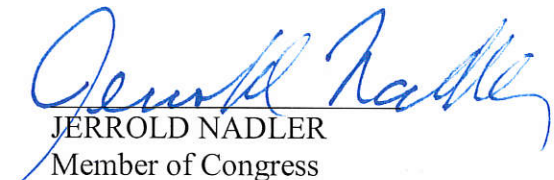
Member of Congress


ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

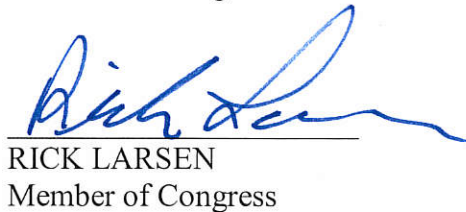
Member of Congress


PETER A. DEFAZIO

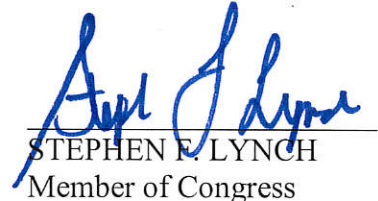
Member of Congress


JERROLD NADLER

Member of Congress


RICK LARSEN

Member of Congress


STEPHEN F. LYNCH

Member of Congress


G. K. BUTTERFIELD

Member of Congress


ROBERT J. WITTMAN

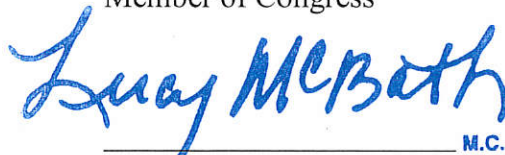
Member of Congress


TED S. YOHO
Member of Congress


STEPHANIE MURPHY
Member of Congress


JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN
Member of Congress


LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER
Member of Congress


LUCY MCBATH
Member of Congress


DARREN SOTO
Member of Congress



JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress



JAHANA HAYES
Member of Congress

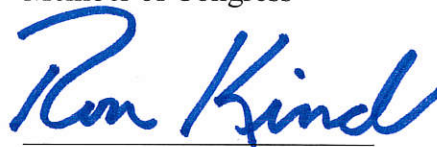

BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress


ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
Member of Congress


JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress


ILHAN OMAR
Member of Congress


PRAMILA JAYAPAL
Member of Congress


RON KIND
Member of Congress


TULSI GABBARD
Member of Congress


AL LAWSON
Member of Congress



ANTHONY G. BROWN
Member of Congress



DEAN PHILLIPS
Member of Congress



MIKE GALLAGHER
Member of Congress



JARED GOLDEN
Member of Congress



SUSAN A. DAVIS
Member of Congress




SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress



KATIE PORTER
Member of Congress




ANTHONY GONZALEZ
Member of Congress



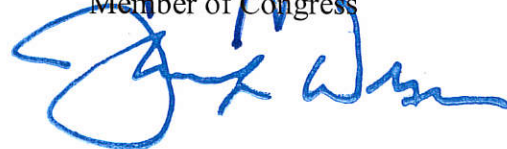
JOSEPH D. MORELLE
Member of Congress



ABIGAIL D. SPANBERGER
Member of Congress



JIM HIMES
Member of Congress




JENNIFER WEXTON
Member of Congress




MIKIE SHERRILL
Member of Congress



KIM SCHRIER
Member of Congress



AYANNA PRESSLEY
Member of Congress




ANTONIO DELGADO
Member of Congress



ELAINE G. LURIA
Member of Congress



MARK DESAULNIER
Member of Congress



GILBERT R. CISNEROS, JR.
Member of Congress



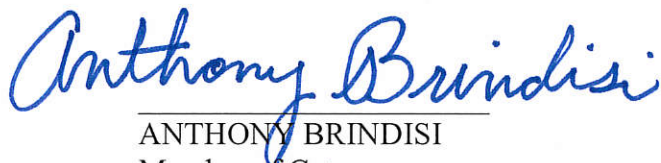
JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress



GLENN 'GT' THOMPSON
Member of Congress



JEFF VAN DREW
Member of Congress



ANTHONY BRINDISI
Member of Congress



CHRIS PAPPAS
Member of Congress



A. DONALD MCEACHIN
Member of Congress



JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III
Member of Congress



PETER T. KING
Member of Congress



ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ
Member of Congress



DAVID SCOTT
Member of Congress



ALMA S. ADAMS
Member of Congress



RO KHANNA
Member of Congress



THOMAS R. SUOZZI
Member of Congress


JOSH GOTTHEIMER
Member of Congress


PETE STAUBER
Member of Congress


DEBBIE MUCARSEL-POWELL
Member of Congress


DAVID ROUZER
Member of Congress


JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress


DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress


DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.
Member of Congress