

Dear

I recently learned that the President's budget for FY 2019 calls for the end of the National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant). As one of your constituents, and as a beneficiary of Sea Grant in New Jersey, I thank you for your past support and respectfully urge you to reject this new proposal as you did in FY 2018.

According to the National Sea Grant Office summative report from last year, collectively the nation's 33 Sea Grant programs generated \$575 million in economic impact including supporting our nation's fisheries and aquaculture industries. In addition, Sea Grant created or sustained 20,770 jobs and 2,903 businesses, logged a staggering 265,602 volunteer hours (10,000 in New Jersey alone) and educated over 500,000 students.

In New Jersey, here are just a few examples of how federal funds awarded to New Jersey Sea Grant (\$1.6M) benefitted our state:

- 28 shore communities provided with support to plan for a more resilient future.
- 24 research projects focused on critical coastal issues from catch limits to flood mitigation and planning for sea level rise.
- The application of cutting-edge shellfish research to advance New Jersey's growing oyster and clam aquaculture industries.
- 25,000 school-children and 938 formal and informal educators engaged in STEM education through marine and coastal studies.
- Acres of protective dune systems established or restored to increase the resilience of New Jersey's beachfront communities.

Sea Grant is a wise investment of federal dollars. 95% of its federal funding goes to states, including New Jersey, where it is leveraged exponentially to solve local issues as identified by stakeholders like me. The loss of this program would be most detrimental to our state and our nation's coastal environment and economy.

The current funding level for Sea Grant is meager compared to the work they do and the products they deliver.

Please do not allow this important, highly effective program to be terminated.

I am grateful for your past support of the Sea Grant Program including New Jersey Sea Grant, and I thank you in advance for your continued attention and support.

Sincerely,

Print Name:

Address: