



**NEWEA**  
WORKING FOR WATER QUALITY

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March 8, 2019

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
Member, United States Senate  
706 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Member, United States House of Representatives  
2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Murphy  
Member, United States Senate  
136 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Courtney  
Member, United States House of Representatives  
2332 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Himes  
Member, United States House of Representatives  
1227 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Blumenthal, Representative Courtney, Representative DeLauro, Representative Himes, and Representative Murphy:

We are writing to urge you to support funding the NOAA ocean acidification research and monitoring budget line item (Integrated Ocean Acidification) at \$22 million for FY20. Ocean acidification is changing the very chemical nature of our oceans, harming a multitude of important species today and threatening more in the future. Fishermen, shellfish farmers, and coastal communities who depend on productive coastal areas for their jobs and recreation will suffer if we don't respond to the challenge of ocean acidification. Federal research dollars can help avert impacts by deepening our scientific understanding of the problem, enabling local businesses to remain productive through awareness and adaptation, and active planning on next steps, both locally and nationally.

This line item will enable our federal and state scientists to inform policymakers' response to this challenge and allow them to work with local communities and sectors that will be affected. Increased funding for the Integrated Ocean Acidification line item in the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research within NOAA will provide desperately needed resources and make sure we address one of the most critical threats to coastal communities and oceans today.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Mary Barry  
Executive Director

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