



NEWEA
WORKING FOR WATER QUALITY

New England Water Environment Association, Inc.
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March 8, 2019

The Honorable David Cicilline
Member, United States House of Representatives
2233 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed
Member, United States Senate
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim Langevin
Member, United States House of Representatives
2077 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Member, United States Senate
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Cicilline, Representative Langevin, Senator Reed, and Senator Whitehouse:

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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