March 1, 2018

Friends,

You may know that the ‘President’s Budget’ for fiscal year 2019 was released in February. The White House seeks to zero out funding for all 33 Sea Grant programs across the country in fiscal year 2018. We are not alone in this; programs such as the National Estuarine Research Reserves, the Coastal Zone Management Program, and many others have also been proposed for elimination.

Oregon Sea Grant has been a key partner with Oregonians in working towards solutions for complex coastal and ocean issues, including fisheries, coastal hazards, and energy, for over 45 years through research, extension, education, and communication. Nationwide, the Sea Grant network works in every coastal and Great Lakes state, and two territories - Puerto Rico and Guam.

In 2016, the Sea Grant program:
• helped generate an estimated $611 million in economic impacts;
• created or sustained over 7,000 jobs;
• provided 33 state-level programs and 494 communities with technical assistance on sustainable development practices;
• worked with about 1300 industry, local, state and regional partners; and
• supported the education and training of over 2300 undergraduate and graduate students.

Many of Oregon’s congressional leaders have opposed the proposed elimination of the Sea Grant program in the past. In 2017, 95 U.S. representatives wrote a letter to their colleagues, urging them to support the Sea Grant program. Additionally, a resolution sponsored by U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, of Oregon, and U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, of Alaska, expressed support for the national program. Similar efforts are underway this year.

Oregon Sea Grant is grateful to our supporters who have contacted Oregon’s congressional delegation with their thoughts on how the administration’s proposed budget would affect Oregon Sea Grant and our work in coastal Oregon. If you are interested in expressing your support for Oregon Sea Grant and the national Sea Grant network, consider contacting Oregon’s five U.S. representatives or the state’s two U.S. senators. You can read more about Oregon Sea Grant’s impact in this two-page fact sheet. Additional resources are available through the Sea Grant Association.

Thank you,

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