

Friends of NOAA Coalition

February 11, 2009

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, Chairman
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, Ranking Member
United States Senate
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Rockefeller and Ranking Member Hutchison:

On behalf of the Friends of NOAA Coalition, we the undersigned strongly endorse President Obama's nomination of Dr. Jane Lubchenco as the new Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). We hope the Committee and Senate are able to act expeditiously on Dr. Lubchenco's appointment.

Dr. Lubchenco is a renowned scientist, an effective educator and communicator of science, well versed and respected in the policy arena, and an experienced manager. Given this collection of skills, she will serve NOAA well in fulfilling its duties in ocean protection and management, weather forecasting, nautical charting, data collection and synthesis, fisheries management, hazard mitigation, and education and outreach efforts. Her expertise in marine ecosystem processes and the impacts associated with climate variability give her a strong background to lead NOAA as it becomes a central player in the effort to meet the challenges our nation and the world are facing as a result of climate change.

Dr. Lubchenco's qualifications are many, and are recognized globally. She formerly served as President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the International Council for Science; she is an elected member of such entities as the National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society; and she was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve on the Board of Directors for the National Science Foundation. As a testament to her dedication to helping translate science into policy, she co-founded three organizations that reach out to the public, policymakers, the media and industry—the Leopold Leadership Program, COMPASS (the Communication Partnership for Science and the Sea), and the new Climate Central. She also served on the Pew Oceans Commission and has been an active member of the Joint Oceans Commission Initiative (JOCI). Finally, as a manager, she leads the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO), which is a 4-university, interdisciplinary team of scientists.

We believe that Dr. Lubchenco's diverse background and communication skills are key qualifications that make her highly capable of supporting the broad mandates of NOAA. She is ideal for enhancing NOAA's role within the Department of Commerce and highlighting its value to our nation's economy, scientific competitiveness, and overall wellbeing. As the leader of NOAA, we think Dr. Lubchenco will do an outstanding job. Therefore, we endorse her selection and urge her timely confirmation by the Senate so that she can begin the urgent work of strengthening NOAA and thereby, strengthening our nation.

Friends of NOAA Coalition

Sincerely,

American Society of Limnology and Oceanography

American Weather & Climate Industry Association

Arizona State University

Coastal States Organization

Consortium for Ocean Leadership

Fugro Pelagos

Institute for Exploration

ITT Space Systems Division

Joint Ocean Commission Initiative

Marine Conservation Biology Institute

National Estuarine Research Reserve Association

National Federation of Regional Associations for Coastal and Ocean Observing

National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Ocean Exploration Trust

Proteus Environmental Technologies

School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University

The Campbell Group, Inc.

The Ocean Conservancy

The Ocean Foundation

The Weather Channel, Inc.

The Weather Coalition

United Fishermen's Marketing Association, Inc.

University Corporation for Atmospheric Research

University of Oklahoma

WeatherBank, Inc.

West Marine

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution