



**MEMORANDUM**

To: Delegates of the Sea Grant Association

From: Lewis-Burke Associates LLC

Date: January 25, 2008

Re: FY 2009 Appropriations Advocacy Request of Sea Grant Association Delegates

---

This memo requests the immediate assistance of the delegates of the Sea Grant Association (SGA) as part of the SGA's overall FY 2009 appropriations strategy. Strategy with respect to the Sea Grant reauthorization bill will be outlined at a later date.

**Requested Action Steps for FY 2009 Appropriations**

Attached is a "one pager" developed by the ERC and the SGA Board requesting an FY 2009 appropriation of \$72 million for the National Sea Grant College Program. The document also contains the names of nearly 300 Sea Grant stakeholders obtained by each of you in a previous exercise.

**Programmatic Request to House and Senate Members**

**We are urging each state Sea Grant program to reach out to your respective House and Senate Members between now and the middle of February to ask them to include the National Sea Grant College Program at \$72 million on the programmatic requests that they will be submitting to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees later this year.**

It is important to make this request of your respective House and Senate members by the middle of February so that they will have adequate time to include it in *their* requests to the Appropriations Committee by the deadline to be set by the Committees. Last year, such *programmatic requests* were initially due to the House Appropriations Committee by the first week in March. And while that deadline was ultimately extended to the end of April, we should act this year as if the deadline for Members to submit their requests to the Appropriations Committee will once again by the first week in March.

- In contacting your Members, we encourage you to use the "one pager" and, where appropriate, point out the relevant stakeholders in your state listed in the document who support the information, education, and outreach products that come from the Sea Grant program in your state;

- We recommend that in contacting your respective Members you should provide two or three specific examples of where Sea Grant has made a valuable contribution in your state to the wise use and management of your own local, state, or regional ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes natural resources;
- We recommend you use the attached historical funding charts to make the point that the program has been severely under-funded for several years and to provide an example or two describing the impact of those budget constraints on your program; and
- Finally, if appropriate, coordinate or ask for the assistance of your university's federal relations officer to help in making this contact with your House and Senate members. Sea Grant is expected to be among the NOAA programs identified as a priority for FY 2009 by the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC). Many of your institutions' federal relations officers are active in NASULGC's Council on Government Relations.

**Sea Grant Dear Colleague Letter in House and Senate**

We are currently discussing with various House and Senate staff members the possibility of one or more Members circulating a "Dear Colleague" letter addressed to the Appropriations Committees asking for a \$72 million appropriation for Sea Grant. Those discussions are ongoing and should a decision be made to circulate a "Dear Colleague" for signatures, we will get back to you at that time to ask for your help on that matter.

For now, *the most important action you can take* with respect to Congressional support for Sea Grant in FY 2009 is, by the middle of February, to ask your Representative and Senators or their staffs to include Sea Grant as one of their top programmatic requests to the Appropriations Committee for the FY 2009 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Act.

This activity is particularly important for the following Sea Grant states as they have Members who serve on either the House or Senate CJS Appropriations Subcommittee:

In the House: Rhode Island, Maryland, California, Connecticut, North Carolina, and Wisconsin;

In the Senate: Maryland, Hawaii, Wisconsin, California, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Alabama, New Hampshire, Alaska, and Texas

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Background and Going Forward**

### **I. State of Play**

Following a long standoff with the White House over top-line funding numbers, the Congress eventually passed a federal budget for FY 2008 that was disappointing to many different interest groups. However, despite the sullen overall outcome, Sea Grant was among the few programs to receive a 4 percent boost in the final FY 2008 budget. The omnibus appropriations bill funded Sea Grant at \$57.1 million for FY 2008, \$2.2 million more than the President's request. While this may not seem like much of an increase, it represents the first time since FY 2006 that the program has seen any growth and it occurred within an environment that eliminated increases for nearly all other NOAA programs.

While the program's budget has finally begun to move in the right direction, we still face a challenging climb. Federal budgets are tighter than ever. In addition, the President's FY 2009 budget request, which will be delivered on February 4, 2008, is likely to focus increased resources on funding the third year of his American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI), which seeks to provide multi-year budget growth for NSF, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Department of Energy's Office of Science – and not NOAA. There are no indicators as of yet as to whether President Bush will focus any new resources on NOAA. And of course, none of this takes into consideration the odds of passing a budget on time in a Presidential election year – which are quite slim.

Particularly because Sea Grant was one of the few NOAA programs to see growth in FY 2008, the SGA will still have its work cut out for it for FY 2009. Grassroots participation by all delegates is needed now more than ever.

### **II. FY 2009 Appropriations Strategy**

As stated at the beginning of this memorandum, the SGA leadership and Lewis-Burke propose that the Sea Grant Association request a \$72 million appropriation for Sea Grant for FY 2009. This is consistent with SGA's "ask" for FY 2008 and is a level that has been supported by the House and Senate in previous years, most recently illustrated in the FY 2008 House and Senate Dear Colleague Letters for Sea Grant. To compare, Sea Grant is funded at \$57.1 million for FY 2008 while the latest authorization of the program provides for \$103 million for FY 2008. Please see the funding slides (attached) developed by Ross Heath, member of the National Sea Grant Review Panel, to see the trend of Sea Grant funding over time.

1. ***FY 2009 Appropriations Request.*** SGA's FY 2009 appropriations "one-pager" is attached for each delegate to use with their Congressional delegations. You may choose to interact with your delegations over email, in person (as part of your Capitol Hill visits in conjunction with the SGA meeting in February) or a combination of the two. You may also choose to interact with your Members' district or state offices. In short, we encourage you to use this one-pager in any communication with your elected officials.

***Estimated Timeframe for Activity:*** Immediately following receipt of this memo and continuing through mid February – while the deadline has yet to be set, it is likely that appropriations requests to the CJS subcommittees will be due by early- to mid-March. Therefore, it is imperative that you ask your Members to include Sea Grant at \$72 million on their “programmatically request lists” as soon as possible. In addition, you are encouraged to continue to follow up with your delegations throughout the appropriations process.

2. ***House and Senate Dear Colleague Letters.*** Lewis-Burke is working with the House and Senate to circulate “Dear Colleague” letters in support of Sea Grant. Lewis-Burke is in the process of identifying House and Senate co-sponsors for these letters. Once the sponsors have been identified and the letters have been drafted, each SGA delegate will be asked to reach out to their House and Senate delegations to urge them to sign-on to the Dear Colleague letters. You will be notified when the letters have begun to circulate and that will be your signal to begin interacting with your Members.

***Estimated Timeframe for Activity:*** February-March 2008

3. ***FY 2009 Testimony.*** Last year, SGA submitted written testimony to the House and Senate CJS Appropriations Subcommittees and in addition, SGA President Paul Anderson was invited to provide in-person public witness testimony before the House CJS subcommittee. Lewis-Burke will work with the ERC in developing testimony and will submit requests to the House and Senate subcommittees to once again offer in-person public witness testimony.

***Estimated Timeframe for Activity:*** March-April 2008

4. ***Collaborative Advocacy.*** Sea Grant is a unique federal program in that it bridges the federal government to the regions and localities. The very nature of Sea Grant makes it possible for individual programs to reach a broad range of constituents from resource managers, to K to gray students and educators, to the general public. This is a capability that SGA should nurture whenever possible. Last year, SGA asked its delegates to solicit local, state and/or regional stakeholders and encourage them to contact relevant Members of Congress about the value of Sea Grant to their district. We strongly encourage each SGA delegate for which it is appropriate to continue to reach out to stakeholders and have them make the same request you are making to the local Congressional delegation. Where such relationships already exist, we encourage SGA delegates to utilize them. Where such relationships are not as well developed, we encourage SGA delegates to invest some of their time to build and nurture these relationships as they can be very important parts of the overall Sea Grant advocacy network we are all building. The SGA is working with a number of other coastal, ocean and Great Lakes advocacy groups at the national level (such as the Coastal States Organization and other like minded groups) to include the Sea Grant program on their list of public policy objectives.

***Estimated Timeframe for Activity:*** On a continuous basis

### **III. Conclusion**

The challenges facing the SGA and the Sea Grant program from a public policy perspective are substantial as they directly impact the future health and well-being of the program. We are faced with meeting these challenges in a constrained budget environment and the politics of a Presidential election year; however, we have the means and potential to be successful. It will require the efforts of the SGA leadership to interact with decision makers in NOAA and the Administration and the relevant Congressional decision makers on an ongoing basis. But it will also require each member of the SGA network to do their part by reaching out on a timely basis to their own Congressional delegations and local and state stakeholders with a coordinated and consistent message.

Attachments include:

- Sea Grant Association Appropriations “One Pager” for FY 2009 with List of Stakeholders
- Roster of House and Senate Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittees
- Sea Grant Funding Trend Charts

**House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science  
110<sup>th</sup> Congress (2<sup>nd</sup> Session)**

**Majority Staff**

Michelle Burkett, Subcommittee Clerk  
Room H-309 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-3351

**Minority Staff**

Frank Cushing, Minority Staff Director  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202-225-3481

*Jurisdiction: Department of Commerce; Department of Justice; National Aeronautics and Space Administration; National Science Foundation; Antitrust Modernization Commission; Commission on Civil Rights; Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; International Trade Commission; Legal Services Corporation; Marine Mammal Commission; National Intellectual Property Law Enforcement Coordination Council; National Veterans Business Development Corporation; Office of Science and Technology Policy; Office of the United States Trade Representative; State Justice Institute*

**MAJORITY**

**Chair: Alan B. Mollohan (WV)**

Patrick J. Kennedy (RI)  
Chaka Fattah (PA)  
C.A. "Dutch" Ruppersberger (MD)  
Adam Schiff (CA)  
Michael Honda (CA)  
Rosa L. DeLauro (CT)  
David E. Price (NC)  
Dave Obey (WI), Ex Officio

**MINORITY**

**Ranking Member:**

**Rodney P. Frelinghuysen (NJ)**  
John Abney Culberson (TX)  
Harold Rogers (KY)  
Tom Latham (IA)  
Robert B. Aderholt (AL)  
Jerry Lewis (CA), Ex Officio

**Senate Appropriations Committee**  
**Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science**  
**110<sup>th</sup> Congress (2<sup>nd</sup> Session)**

**Majority Staff**

Gabrielle Batkin, Clerk  
Kevin Kimball, NOAA Issues  
SD-144 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-5202

**Minority Staff**

Arthur Cameron, Clerk  
Rachelle Schroeder, NOAA Issues  
SH-125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-7277

*Jurisdiction: Department of Commerce; Department of Justice; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Bureau of Economic and Statistical Analysis; Bureau of Export Administration; Bureau of Prisons; Bureau of the Census; Commission on Civil Rights; Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act; Disaster Loans Program; Drug Enforcement Administration; Economic and Statistical Analysis; Economic Development Administration; Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Federal Communications Commission; Federal Prison Industries Incorporated; Federal Trade Commission; Foreign Claims Settlement Commission; International Trade Commission; International Trade Negotiations; Justice Assistance; Juvenile Justices and Delinquency Prevention; Legal Services Corporation; Marine Mammal Commission; Minority Business Development Agency; National Aeronautics and Space Administration; National Institute of Corrections; National Institute of Standards and Technology; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; National Science Foundation; National Technical Information Service; National Telecommunications and Information Administration; Office of Justice Programs; Office of Science and Technology Policy; Office of the U.S. Trade Representative; Ounce of Prevention Council; Patent and Trademark Office; Public Telecommunications Facilities Grants; Securities and Exchange Commission; Small Business Administration; State Justice Institute; Technology Administration; Trade Adjustment Assistance/Firms; U.S. Attorneys; U.S. Foreign and Commercial Service; U.S. Marshal Service; U.S. Parole Commission*

**MAJORITY**

**Chair: Barbara Mikulski (MD)**

Daniel Inouye (HI)  
Patrick Leahy (VT)  
Herb Kohl (WI)  
Tom Harkin (IA)  
Byron Dorgan (ND)  
Dianne Feinstein (CA)  
Jack Reed (RI)  
Frank Lautenberg (NJ)  
Robert Byrd (WV), Ex Officio

**MINORITY**

**Ranking Member: Richard Shelby (AL)**

Judd Gregg (NH)  
Ted Stevens (AK)  
Pete Domenici (NM)  
Mitch McConnell (KY)  
Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX)  
Sam Brownback (KS)  
Lamar Alexander (TN)  
Thad Cochran (MS), Ex Officio

# Appropriated Dollars





