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Friends,

You may know by now that the White House seeks to zero out funding for all 33 Sea Grant programs across the country in fiscal year 2018. We heard this news in early March with the release of the administration's "skinny" budget; this news was unchanged last week, when the White House released its full budget proposal for FY2018. 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, hazards, and energy, for over 45 years through research, extension, education, and communication. Nationwide, the Sea Grant program works in 31 states, including Oregon, and two territories to create or sustain more than 20,000 jobs and 2,900 businesses annually. In 2015, the national program's \$67.3 million budget generated an economic impact of \$575 million, which was an 854 percent return on investment.

Many of Oregon's congressional leaders have opposed the proposed elimination of the Sea Grant program. Also, 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.

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, 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](#).

Thank you,

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