



Congressional Relations: Know Your Audience



John Gray

Director

NOAA's Office of Legislative Affairs

NOAA Leadership Seminar

Airlie, Virginia

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Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA)



With NOAA, the Department of Commerce, and the Administration

- Develops, coordinates, and implements the overall legislative strategy for NOAA and identifies and tracks all legislation of interest to NOAA and keeping the Office of the Under Secretary and Assistant Administrators informed;
- Ensures good communication and coordination among legislative activities within Line, Program, and Staff offices;
- Manages every aspect of NOAA's participation in congressional hearings including advising NOAA senior management of official requests for witnesses, ensuring that the witnesses are properly briefed, and overseeing the preparation and clearance of NOAA testimony, including providing drafting assistance for the written and/or oral testimony as requested; and
- Coordinates with the Department of Commerce Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs.

With Congress

- Rolls out the President's annual budget request to Congress;
- Coordinates and communicates the Administration's position on issues and programs of interest to NOAA on proposed pending legislation through views letters and congressional testimony at hearings;
- Provides congressional staff with technical drafting assistance, views letters for legislation, opportunities to meet with NOAA experts, and ensures congressionally-mandated reports order by NOAA authorizing committees are completed on time;
- Responds to all congressional inquiries in a timely manner through personal visits, e-mail, phone, fax, and mail; and
- Briefs Members of Congress and their staff regularly on important NOAA programs, issues, and activities.



OLA Activities (cont.)



- On an annual basis, the OLA's legislative program activities encompass over:
 - **21,000** e-mails and phone calls with Members and congressional staff
 - **1,000** briefings and meetings with Members and congressional staff
 - **30-40** oversight and legislative hearings
 - **400** Questions for the Record in follow-up to hearings
 - **125** letters of incoming correspondence from Members requiring prepared response
 - **1,000** NOAA grants, totaling over \$856,932,439 (FY 2008), that the OLA reviews and then notifies Congress of the award. Notifications are sent to the Representative in whose district the work is based, both Senators and other Members, as relevant.



The 111th Congress Settles Out *(for the time being...)*



House: Majority (D) 256*
Minority (R) 178

* 1 Vacancy: Tauscher, (CA-10)

Senate: Majority (D) 60**
Minority (R) 40

** Specter (PA), + Independents



Key NOAA Committees Senate



Senate Oversight and Authorizing Committees

Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

- Senator John Rockefeller (D-WV), Chair
- Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard

- Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Chairman
- Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Ranking Member

Senate Budget Committees

Senate Committee on Appropriations

- Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI), Chair
- Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS), Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

- Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Chairman
- Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL), Ranking Member



Key NOAA Committees House



House of Representatives Oversight and Authorizing Committees

House Committee on Natural Resources

- Representative Nick Rahall (D WV-3), Chair
- Representative Doc Hasting (R WA-4), Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans, and Wildlife

- Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam), Chair
- Representative Henry Brown (R SC-1), Ranking Member

House Committee on Science and Technology

- Representative Bart Gordon (D TN-6), Chair
- Representative Ralph Hall (R TX-4), Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Energy and Environment

- Representative Brian Baird (D WA-3), Chair
- Representative Bob Inglis (R SC-4), Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Research and Science Education

- Representative Daniel Lipinski (D IL-3), Chair
- Representative Vern Ehlers (R MI-3), Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight

- Representative Brad Miller (D NC-13), Chair
- Representative Paul Broun (R GA-10), Ranking Member

House of Representatives Budget Committees

House Committee on Appropriations

- Representative Dave Obey (D WI-7), Chair
- Representative Jerry Lewis (R CA-41), Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

- Representative Alan Mollohan (D WV-1), Chair
- Representative Frank Wolf (R VA-10), Ranking Member



How Congress Works



- Majority selects leadership at the beginning of each two-year Congress.
- Authorization Committees provide legal basis for federal agencies to operate as well as oversight of agency programs
- Appropriations Committees approve funding each fiscal year for federal agencies. Money bills originate in House.



NOAA Interests in the 111th Congress



NOAA

- Organic legislation, NOAA Corps reauthorization

Climate

- Adaptation, greenhouse gas monitoring, National Climate Service, & research

Fisheries

- Marine mammal protection, aquaculture, international unregulated fishing, & habitat protection and restoration

Oceans

- Coastal zone management, coral reef conservation, governance and marine spatial planning, human health and harmful algal blooms, & national marine sanctuaries

Research, Weather and Satellites

- Hurricane research, windstorm impact reduction, & satellite oversight



NOAA Bills Passed in the 111th



Public Lands Omnibus

(S.22/H.R.146, signed into law March 30, 2009):

- *Integrated Ocean and Coastal Observation System Act*
- *National Ocean Exploration Program*
- *NOAA Undersea Research Program Act*
- *Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act*
- *Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act*
- *Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program*
- *SECURE Water Act*



NOAA-related Bills in the 111th



Oceans

- *Coral Reef Conservation Act* reauthorization (H.R.860)
- Ocean Conservation, Educ., and Nat'l Strategy (H.R. 21)
- CA and MI Sanctuary Expansions (S.212, H.R.223 & S.380, H.R.905)
- Great Lakes protection (H.R.500, S.237)
- HAB and Hypoxia Research and Control (S.952)
- Nat'l Ocean Protection (S.858)
- NW Straits Marine Conservation Initiative reauthorization (H.R.1672, S.668)
- *CZMA* amendments, e.g., Working Waterfronts (S.533), Coastal State Renewable Energy Promotion (H.R.1690), and Coastal State Climate Planning (H.R.1905)



NOAA-related Bills in the 111th



Fisheries

- Shark Conservation (H.R.81, S.850)
- Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (H.R.1080)
- Marine Mammal Research Program (H.R.2029)
- Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance (H.R.844, S. 859)
- National Fish Habitat Conservation (S.1214, HR 2565)
- *Pacific Salmon Stronghold Conservation Act* (H.R.1830, S. 817)
- *Chesapeake Bay Science, Educ., and Ecosystem Act* (H.R.1771, S.1224)
- *Fisheries Flexibility Act* (HR 1584, S.1255)
- Agreement for Conservation of Albatross and Petrel (Administration bill)



NOAA-related Bills in the 111th



Climate

National Climate Service

- *National Climate Service Act* (H.R. 2306, H.R. 2407, H.R. 2454/2998)
- *Climate and Ocean Research & National Climate Enterprise* (H.R. 2685)

Climate Adaptation and Mitigation

- *American Clean Energy and Security Act* (H.R. 2454/2998)
- *American Clean Energy Leadership Act of 2009* (S.1462)

Research

- *Black Carbon* (S.849, H.R. 2454/2998)
- *Global Change Research* (H.R. 2454/2998)



NOAA-related Bills in the 111th



Research, Weather and Satellites

- Nat'l Hurricane Research (H.R.327)
- *National Water Research and Development Act*
- International Science and Tech. Cooperation (H.R.1736)
- Weather Mitigation Research (S.601)
- NPOESS(e.g., Defense Supplemental & Authorization)

NOAA

- *NOAA Organic Act* (H.R.300)
- STEM Education Coordination (H.R. 1709)



On the Horizon



- B-WET
- Aquaculture
- Seafood Inspection
- Law of the Sea ratification
- NOAA Corps reauthorization
- Sanctuary reauthorization
- *Coastal Zone Management Act* reauthorization



Thank You



For more updates from the Office of Legislative Affairs, including copies of hearing testimony, congressional policy briefs, and *NOAA In Your State*, please visit <http://www.legislative.noaa.gov>.