January 9, 2007

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science
S-146A Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chair:

On behalf of the National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML), I am writing to request the opportunity for NAML to provide public witness testimony before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science regarding the Fiscal Year 2008 budgets for the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

NAML is a nonprofit organization of over 120 institutions employing more than 10,000 scientists, engineers, and professionals and representing ocean, coastal and Great Lakes laboratories stretching from Maine to the Gulf of Mexico to the west coast, from Guam to Bermuda and from Alaska to Puerto Rico. NAML labs conduct high quality ocean, coastal and Great Lakes research and education in the natural and social sciences and promote the effective use of that science for decision-making on important issues that face our country. We are careful stewards of federally-funded research involving the oceans, coasts and Great Lakes and thanks to our local connections have the ability to bring the excitement of ocean and marine research, science and education to all Americans.

The success of NAML member labs in providing the best science to policy-makers, however, is commensurate with the budget levels of the competitive extramural research and education programs of NSF, NOAA and NASA. NAML members represent the scientists, educators, and researchers that are in the field, lab and classroom conducting federally-funded ocean, coastal and Great Lakes science, education and outreach projects to solve societal problems and enhance our quality of life. As experts on these issues, we feel we can offer your subcommittee a level of expertise that you cannot get anywhere else.

NAML member labs strive to provide sound science that informs wise policy decisions. As the Subcommittee begins developing its schedule for the upcoming year, we hope you will call-on NAML as a resource for information dealing with the Nation’s oceans, coasts and Great Lakes, particularly as it relates to NSF, NOAA and NASA. We look forward to working with you and the Subcommittee.
National Association of Marine Laboratories

this year. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Joel Widder, NAML’s Washington representative, if you have any questions or require additional information. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anthony F. Michaels
NAML President
Director, Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies
University of Southern California

cc: The Honorable Richard Shelby, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science
The Honorable Robert Byrd, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee