



June 26, 2025

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science  
& Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science  
& Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science  
& Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Grace Meng  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science  
& Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

As you draft the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, we write in strong support of funding the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s oceanic and atmospheric research programs at or above the FY2025 funding level.

Our organizations represent the engineering industry and civil engineers across the country, and our members know first-hand how vital NOAA's weather data and predictive research are to public safety, preparedness, and resilience. Engineers are responsible for designing our nation's infrastructure, including roads, highways, bridges, utilities, and coastal protection. Having accurate data on rainfall frequency and severity, temperature trends, and extreme weather events is critical to ensuring that our nation's infrastructure is prepared in the face of environmental risks.

When designing critical infrastructure, engineers rely on modern building codes and engineering standards that ensure safety and functionality over the asset's entire lifespan, which is often 50 years or more. The research conducted by NOAA is used for the development of those codes and standards, which also guide long-term planning, material selection, emergency preparedness and the siting of essential services. We are concerned that reducing NOAA's research capabilities to predict severe weather, forecast tornadoes and hurricanes, and measure coastal zones will put households, businesses, and public infrastructure at greater risk of damage due to natural disasters and flooding. If enacted, the cuts proposed in the FY2026 budget request will impact a broad range of activities ranging from hurricane hunter aircraft missions to flood risk management in our most vulnerable communities.

Engineers play a central role in protecting the public safety by designing and building the infrastructure that powers and moves our economy. We appreciate your attention to this important issue and thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Linda Bauer Darr". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Linda" being the most prominent.

Linda Bauer Darr  
President & CEO  
American Council of Engineering Companies

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas W. Smith III". The script is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Smith" being the most prominent.

Thomas W. Smith III, CAE, ENV SP, NAC, F.ASCE  
Executive Director  
American Society of Civil Engineers