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June 6, 2007

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski, Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski and Senator Shelby:

As the governors of California, Oregon, and Washington, we call on you to address the threat of nonpoint source pollution along our coasts. Specifically, we ask that you provide sufficient funding in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) budget for coastal states to effectively implement the federal Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.

We are disappointed that the Administration eliminated funding for this program in NOAA's FY 2007 spending plan and FY 2008 budget. We urge Congress to restore \$10 million in NOAA's FY 2008 budget to support the long-term efforts of the 35 affected states, territories, and commonwealths to implement this important work through coastal management programs. We intend to work with the Administration to ensure that it includes this amount in the FY 2009 NOAA budget.

Nonpoint source pollution is considered a primary cause of coastal water pollution in the United States. Stormwater runoff in coastal watersheds carries bacteria and viruses, oils and chemicals from streets and parking lots, excess fertilizers, and pollutants from other human activities.

On September 18, 2006, our three states entered into a historic partnership to address critical ocean and coastal protection and management issues. *The West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health* affirms our commitment to work together to clean up coastal waters, protect and restore ocean and coastal habitats, and foster sustainable economic development throughout our diverse coastal communities.

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Clean coastal waters are fundamental to healthy coastal economies. Eliminating funding for the coastal nonpoint pollution control program from the NOAA spending plan for FY 2007 and beyond is shortsighted. Congress has funded this program for many years. The Administration's position is inconsistent with Congress' clear record of support in this matter. It also is contrary to the interests of communities that depend on clean coastal waters for their livelihood and for all Americans who recognize that these fragile environments greatly contribute to quality of life.

Again, we urge you to restore funding for NOAA's nonpoint source pollution program to historic levels each year, including at minimum \$10 million in FY 2008. We are dedicated to working with you to solve the problems posed by nonpoint source pollution.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California



Theodore R. Kulongoski
Governor of Oregon



Christine O. Gregoire
Governor of Washington

cc: Robert C. Byrd, Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate
Thad Cochran, Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate
Members of the California, Oregon, and Washington Delegations