

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

January 29, 2024

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Director
Office of Management and Budget
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20504

Richard W. Spinrad, Ph.D.
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Director Young and Under Secretary Spinrad,

As you work to complete the Administration's budget request for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25), I encourage you to include the full authorization of \$4 million for NOAA's Digital Coast activities. The Digital Coast program, authorized in P.L. 116-223, provides coastal communities with the data, tools, and training needed to manage coastal resources, enhance community resilience and strengthen economic development.

More specifically, Digital Coast provides leaders of vulnerable coastal and Great Lakes communities with the essential resources needed to predict, plan for, and mitigate the impacts of storms, flooding and natural disasters by consolidating data from a wide variety of sources into a single publicly accessible, easy-to-use interface. The breadth and interoperability of the data within the Digital Coast platform, combined with trainings for coastal management practitioners, empowers local leaders in both the public and private sector to dramatically improve the efficacy of coastal management projects.

Digital Coast has become an essential tool that coastal managers across the country rely on. A NOAA survey found that 75 percent of Digital Coast users indicated that their projects would not have been possible without Digital Coast. Further, NOAA predicts over a 400 percent return on investment from Digital Coast.

As Digital Coast is utilized in communities across the country, the program should not be underestimated in the federal budget planning process. Full support of Digital Coast in the FY25 Budget Request will ensure communities have continued access to the up-to-date data, tools and training resources necessary for supporting the economic development and disaster prevention in coastal communities.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tammy Baldwin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tammy Baldwin

United States Senator