

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4822

To prohibit the National Science Foundation from using Federal funds to descope or decommission the Ocean Observatories Initiative instruments.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 17, 2026

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. REED, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. WARREN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice, considered, read the third time and passed

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## A BILL

To prohibit the National Science Foundation from using Federal funds to descope or decommission the Ocean Observatories Initiative instruments.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Saving the OOI Act  
5 of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. NO NSF FUNDING TO DESCOPE OR DECOMMISSION**  
2 **THE OCEAN OBSERVATORIES INITIATIVE IN-**  
3 **STRUMENTS; RESTORATION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
5 sion of law, the National Science Foundation shall not use  
6 any Federal funds to decommission or descope the Ocean  
7 Observatories Initiative instruments anchored off the  
8 States of Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and North Caro-  
9 lina, and in the Irminger Sea, until the National Science  
10 Foundation conducts a thorough review of the initiative,  
11 and the national assets that it provides, with robust stake-  
12 holder engagement from the scientific and coastal commu-  
13 nities.

14 (b) MAINTENANCE OF OPERATIONS.—The Director  
15 of the National Science Foundation shall maintain the  
16 Ocean Observatories Initiative with full and consistent op-  
17 erations, including monitoring in all States that had in-  
18 struments decommissioned, until the full review described  
19 in subsection (a) has been completed

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