

INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVATION  
SYSTEM ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2019

OCTOBER 11, 2019.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State  
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GRIJALVA, from the Committee on Natural Resources,  
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1314]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1314) to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act Amendments of 2019”.

**SEC. 2. STAGGERED TERMS FOR NATIONAL INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVATION SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

Section 12304(d)(3)(B) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(d)(3)(B)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Members” and inserting the following:

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), members”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) STAGGERED TERMS.—The Administrator may appoint or reappoint a member for a partial term of 1 or 2 years in order to establish a system of staggered terms. The Administrator may appoint or reappoint a member under this clause only once. A member appointed or reappointed to a partial term under this clause may not serve more than one full term.”.

**SEC. 3. INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVATION SYSTEM COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**

Section 12305(a) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3604(a)) is amended by inserting “disburse appropriated funds to,” after “agreements, with,”.

**SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATION OF INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVATION SYSTEM ACT OF 2009.**

Section 12311 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3610) is amended by striking “for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 such sums as are necessary” and inserting “\$47,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024”.

**PURPOSE OF THE BILL**

The purpose of H.R. 1314 is to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

**BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION**

Authorized by the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System (ICOOS) Act of 2009,<sup>1</sup> the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) is a national-regional partnership implemented by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that provides important data to improve safety, enhance the economy, and protect the environment.<sup>2</sup> IOOS is a coordinated network of people and technology, consisting of seventeen federal partners and eleven regional associations,<sup>3</sup> that generates and disseminates continuous data models and services on coastal waters, including oceans in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, and the Great Lakes. Both near-real time and historical integrated ocean information is available. These data consist of standardized information on environmental variables such as temperature, salinity, currents, nutrient concentrations, and contaminant levels, as well as other critical ecological factors. Data are collected through 737 national and 335 regional platforms, such as buoys and water level gauges, and 150 high-frequency radar installations.<sup>4</sup> IOOS also supports programs to transition marine sensors and research models to operations, an animal telemetry network to track aquatic species’ movements and behavior, and oceanographic metadata record datasets.

The ICOOS Act of 2009 directs specific tasks and requirements, including preparing budgets and cost estimates, developing non-federal asset certification standards, and drafting a public-private use policy process. The ICOOS Advisory Committee is a federal advisory committee of non-federal experts that provides advice to the NOAA Administrator and the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee on the administration, operation, management, and maintenance of the U.S. IOOS.<sup>5</sup> Members of the IOOS Advisory Committee are appointed by the NOAA Administrator to serve three-year terms, which are renewable once. Currently, members may all be appointed at once, with the current committee membership comprising 15 members for a term beginning in 2018 and ending in 2021, with three federal ex officio members from NOAA, the U.S.

<sup>1</sup>Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111–11 tit. XII, subtitle C, 123 Stat. 991, 1427 (2009).

<sup>2</sup>*See, e.g.*, About Us, NOAA IOOS, <https://ioos.noaa.gov/about/about-us/> (last visited Oct. 8, 2019). See generally H.R. REP. NO. 115–1038, pt. 1, at 2–3 (2018) (containing language updated and reused herein).

<sup>3</sup>*See, e.g.*, IOOS By The Numbers, NOAA IOOS, <https://ioos.noaa.gov/about/ioos-by-the-numbers/> (last visited Oct. 8, 2019).

<sup>4</sup>*Id.*

<sup>5</sup>Pub. L. No. 111–11, 12,304(d), 123 Stat. 991, 143334 (2009); *see also* U.S. IOOS Advisory Committee, NOAA IOOS, <https://ioos.noaa.gov/community/u-s-ioos-advisory-committee/> (last visited Oct. 8, 2019).

Army Corps of Engineers, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

#### COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 1314 was introduced on February 19, 2019, by Representative Don Young (R–AK). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. Within the former committee, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife. On May 8, 2019, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. On September 18, 2019, the Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee was discharged by unanimous consent. An amendment offered by Chair Grijalva #1 was agreed to by unanimous consent. No additional amendments were offered, and the bill, as amended, was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

#### HEARINGS

For the purposes of section 103(i) of H. Res. 6 of the 116th Congress the following hearing was used to develop or consider H.R. 1314: legislative hearing by the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held on May 8, 2019.

#### SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

##### *Section 1. Short title*

This section would provide the short title of the bill, the “Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act Amendments of 2019.”

##### *Section 2. Staggered terms for national integrated coastal and ocean observation system advisory committee*

This section would stagger the terms of the ICOOS Advisory Committee members.

##### *Section 3. Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System cooperative agreements*

This section would authorize the Secretary of Commerce to disburse funds to any state, federal agency, public or private organization, or individual in carrying out interagency activities.

##### *Section 4. Reauthorization of Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009*

This section would authorize \$47.5 million in appropriations for each of Fiscal Years 2020 through 2024 to carry out the ICOOS Act.

#### COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources’ oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET  
ACT

1. Cost of Legislation and the Congressional Budget Act. With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) and (3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and sections 308(a) and 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following estimate for the bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,  
*Washington, DC, September 26, 2019.*

Hon. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,  
*Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 1314, the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act Amendments of 2019.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Robert Reese.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,  
*Director.*

Enclosure.

<b>H.R. 1314, Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act Amendments of 2019</b>			
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on September 18, 2019			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2019	2019-2024	2019-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	209	238
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

H.R. 1314 would amend the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 and authorize the appropriation of \$47.5 million each year over the 2020–2024 period for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA’s) Integrated Ocean Observation System (IOOS). CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$209 million over the 2020–2024 period and \$29 million after 2024. In 2019, NOAA allocated \$45 million to operate the IOOS.

The cost of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, falls within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

TABLE 1.—ESTIMATED INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION UNDER H.R. 2189

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—						2019–2024
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Authorization .....	0	48	48	48	48	48	238
Estimated Outlays .....	0	29	39	46	48	48	209

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

On May 8, 2019, CBO transmitted an estimate for S. 914, the Coordinated Ocean Observation and Research Act of 2019, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on April 3, 2019. Title I of S. 914 is similar to H.R. 1314. CBO’s estimated costs for those provisions are different because the two pieces of legislation would authorize the appropriation of different amounts.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Robert Reese. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

2. *General Performance Goals and Objectives.* As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goals and objectives of this bill is to reauthorize and amend the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009.

#### EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT STATEMENT

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

#### EXISTING PROGRAMS

This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program. Such program was not included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139. The Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) (CFDA No. 11.012) reauthorized by this bill is related and complementary to, but not duplicative of, the following programs identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance published pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 6104: Financial Assistance for National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (CFDA No. 11.426), Coastal Zone Management Estuarine Research Reserves (CFDA No. 11.420), Coastal Zone Management Administration Awards (CFDA No. 11.419), Climate and Atmospheric Research (CFDA No. 11.431), Environmental Sciences, Applications, Data, and Education (CFDA No. 11.440), Office for Coastal Management (CFDA No. 11.473), Sea Grant Support (CFDA No. 11.417), Marine Sanctuary Program (CFDA No. 11.429), and Cooperative Science and Education Program (CFDA No. 11.455).

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL LAW

Any preemptive effect of this bill over state, local, or tribal law is intended to be consistent with the bill's purposes and text and the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

**INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVATION  
SYSTEM ACT OF 2009**

\* \* \* \* \*

**TITLE XII—NOAA UNDERSEA RESEARCH  
PROGRAM ACT OF 2009**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Subtitle C—Integrated Coastal and Ocean  
Observation System Act of 2009**

\* \* \* \* \*

**SEC. 12304. INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The President, acting through the Council, shall establish a National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System to fulfill the purposes set forth in section 12302 of this subtitle and the System Plan and to fulfill the Nation's international obligations to contribute to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems and the Global Ocean Observing System.

(b) **SYSTEM ELEMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to fulfill the purposes of this subtitle, the System shall be national in scope and consist of—

(A) Federal assets to fulfill national and international observation missions and priorities;

(B) non-Federal assets, including a network of regional information coordination entities identified under subsection (c)(4), to fulfill regional observation missions and priorities;

(C) data management, communication, and modeling systems for the timely integration and dissemination of data and information products from the System;

(D) a research and development program conducted under the guidance of the Council, consisting of—

(i) basic and applied research and technology development to improve understanding of coastal and ocean systems and their relationships to human activities and to ensure improvement of operational assets and products, including related infrastructure, observing technologies, and information and data processing and management technologies; and

(ii) large scale computing resources and research to advance modeling of coastal and ocean processes.

(2) ENHANCING ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT.—The head of each Federal agency that has administrative jurisdiction over a Federal asset shall support the purposes of this subtitle and may take appropriate actions to enhance internal agency administration and management to better support, integrate, finance, and utilize observation data, products, and services developed under this section to further its own agency mission and responsibilities.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—The head of each Federal agency that has administrative jurisdiction over a Federal asset shall make available data that are produced by that asset and that are not otherwise restricted for integration, management, and dissemination by the System.

(4) NON-FEDERAL ASSETS.—Non-Federal assets shall be coordinated, as appropriate, by the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee or by regional information coordination entities.

(c) POLICY OVERSIGHT, ADMINISTRATION, AND REGIONAL COORDINATION.—

(1) COUNCIL FUNCTIONS.—The Council shall serve as the policy and coordination oversight body for all aspects of the System. In carrying out its responsibilities under this subtitle, the Council shall—

(A) approve and adopt comprehensive System budgets developed and maintained by the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee to support System operations, including operations of both Federal and non-Federal assets;

(B) ensure coordination of the System with other domestic and international earth observing activities including the Global Ocean Observing System and the Global Earth Observing System of Systems, and provide, as appropriate, support for and representation on United States delegations to international meetings on coastal and ocean observing programs; and

(C) encourage coordinated intramural and extramural research and technology development, and a process to transition developing technology and methods into operations of the System.

(2) INTERAGENCY OCEAN OBSERVATION COMMITTEE.—The Council shall establish or designate an Interagency Ocean Observing Committee which shall—

(A) prepare annual and long-term plans for consideration and approval by the Council for the integrated design, operation, maintenance, enhancement and expansion

of the System to meet the objectives of this subtitle and the System Plan;

(B) develop and transmit to Congress at the time of submission of the President's annual budget request an annual coordinated, comprehensive budget to operate all elements of the System identified in subsection (b), and to ensure continuity of data streams from Federal and non-Federal assets;

(C) establish required observation data variables to be gathered by both Federal and non-Federal assets and identify, in consultation with regional information coordination entities, priorities for System observations;

(D) establish protocols and standards for System data processing, management, and communication;

(E) develop contract certification standards and compliance procedures for all non-Federal assets, including regional information coordination entities, to establish eligibility for integration into the System and to ensure compliance with all applicable standards and protocols established by the Council, and ensure that regional observations are integrated into the System on a sustained basis;

(F) identify gaps in observation coverage or needs for capital improvements of both Federal assets and non-Federal assets;

(G) subject to the availability of appropriations, establish through one or more participating Federal agencies, in consultation with the System advisory committee established under subsection (d), a competitive matching grant or other programs—

(i) to promote intramural and extramural research and development of new, innovative, and emerging observation technologies including testing and field trials; and

(ii) to facilitate the migration of new, innovative, and emerging scientific and technological advances from research and development to operational deployment;

(H) periodically review and recommend to the Council, in consultation with the Administrator, revisions to the System Plan;

(I) ensure collaboration among Federal agencies participating in the activities of the Committee; and

(J) perform such additional duties as the Council may delegate.

(3) LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY.—The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall function as the lead Federal agency for the implementation and administration of the System, in consultation with the Council, the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, other Federal agencies that maintain portions of the System, and the regional information coordination entities, and shall—

(A) establish an Integrated Ocean Observing Program Office within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration utilizing to the extent necessary, personnel from member agencies participating on the Interagency

Ocean Observation Committee, to oversee daily operations and coordination of the System;

(B) implement policies, protocols, and standards approved by the Council and delegated by the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee;

(C) promulgate program guidelines to certify and integrate non-Federal assets, including regional information coordination entities, into the System to provide regional coastal and ocean observation data that meet the needs of user groups from the respective regions;

(D) have the authority to enter into and oversee contracts, leases, grants or cooperative agreements with non-Federal assets, including regional information coordination entities, to support the purposes of this subtitle on such terms as the Administrator deems appropriate;

(E) implement a merit-based, competitive funding process to support non-Federal assets, including the development and maintenance of a network of regional information coordination entities, and develop and implement a process for the periodic review and evaluation of all non-Federal assets, including regional information coordination entities;

(F) provide opportunities for competitive contracts and grants for demonstration projects to design, develop, integrate, deploy, and support components of the System;

(G) establish efficient and effective administrative procedures for allocation of funds among contractors, grantees, and non-Federal assets, including regional information coordination entities in a timely manner, and contingent on appropriations according to the budget adopted by the Council;

(H) develop and implement a process for the periodic review and evaluation of regional information coordination entities;

(I) formulate an annual process by which gaps in observation coverage or needs for capital improvements of Federal assets and non-Federal assets of the System are identified by the regional information coordination entities, the Administrator, or other members of the System and transmitted to the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee;

(J) develop and be responsible for a data management and communication system, in accordance with standards and protocols established by the Council, by which all data collected by the System regarding ocean and coastal waters of the United States including the Great Lakes, are processed, stored, integrated, and made available to all end-user communities;

(K) implement a program of public education and outreach to improve public awareness of global climate change and effects on the ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes environment;

(L) report annually to the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee on the accomplishments, operational needs, and performance of the System to contribute to the annual

and long-term plans developed pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(A)(i); and

(M) develop a plan to efficiently integrate into the System new, innovative, or emerging technologies that have been demonstrated to be useful to the System and which will fulfill the purposes of this subtitle and the System Plan.

(4) REGIONAL INFORMATION COORDINATION ENTITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To be certified or established under this subtitle, a regional information coordination entity shall be certified or established by contract or agreement by the Administrator, and shall agree to meet the certification standards and compliance procedure guidelines issued by the Administrator and information needs of user groups in the region while adhering to national standards and shall—

(i) demonstrate an organizational structure capable of gathering required System observation data, supporting and integrating all aspects of coastal and ocean observing and information programs within a region and that reflects the needs of State and local governments, commercial interests, and other users and beneficiaries of the System and other requirements specified under this subtitle and the System Plan;

(ii) identify gaps in observation coverage needs for capital improvements of Federal assets and non-Federal assets of the System, or other recommendations to assist in the development of the annual and long-term plans created pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(A)(i) and transmit such information to the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee via the Program Office;

(iii) develop and operate under a strategic operational plan that will ensure the efficient and effective administration of programs and assets to support daily data observations for integration into the System, pursuant to the standards approved by the Council;

(iv) work cooperatively with governmental and non-governmental entities at all levels to identify and provide information products of the System for multiple users within the service area of the regional information coordination entities; and

(v) comply with all financial oversight requirements established by the Administrator, including requirements relating to audits.

(B) PARTICIPATION.—For the purposes of this subtitle, employees of Federal agencies may participate in the functions of the regional information coordination entities.

(d) SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish or designate a System advisory committee, which shall provide advice as may be requested by the Administrator or the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the System advisory committee is to advise the Administrator and the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee on—

(A) administration, operation, management, and maintenance of the System, including integration of Federal and non-Federal assets and data management and communication aspects of the System, and fulfillment of the purposes set forth in section 12302;

(B) expansion and periodic modernization and upgrade of technology components of the System;

(C) identification of end-user communities, their needs for information provided by the System, and the System's effectiveness in disseminating information to end-user communities and the general public; and

(D) any other purpose identified by the Administrator or the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee.

(3) MEMBERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The System advisory committee shall be composed of members appointed by the Administrator. Members shall be qualified by education, training, and experience to evaluate scientific and technical information related to the design, operation, maintenance, or use of the System, or use of data products provided through the System.

(B) TERMS OF SERVICE.—**[Members]**

(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*Except as provided in clause (ii), members shall be appointed for 3-year terms, renewable once. A vacancy appointment shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term of the vacancy, and an individual so appointed may subsequently be appointed for 2 full 3-year terms if the remainder of the unexpired term is less than 1 year.*

(ii) *STAGGERED TERMS.*—*The Administrator may appoint or reappoint a member for a partial term of 1 or 2 years in order to establish a system of staggered terms. The Administrator may appoint or reappoint a member under this clause only once. A member appointed or reappointed to a partial term under this clause may not serve more than one full term.*

(C) CHAIRPERSON.—The Administrator shall designate a chairperson from among the members of the System advisory committee.

(D) APPOINTMENT.—Members of the System advisory committee shall be appointed as special Government employees for purposes of section 202(a) of title 18, United States Code.

(4) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

(A) REPORTING.—The System advisory committee shall report to the Administrator and the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee, as appropriate.

(B) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Administrator shall provide administrative support to the System advisory committee.

(C) MEETINGS.—The System advisory committee shall meet at least once each year, and at other times at the call

of the Administrator, the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee, or the chairperson.

(D) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.—Members of the System advisory committee shall not be compensated for service on that Committee, but may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

(E) EXPIRATION.—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the System advisory committee.

(e) CIVIL LIABILITY.—For purposes of determining liability arising from the dissemination and use of observation data gathered pursuant to this section, any non-Federal asset or regional information coordination entity incorporated into the System by contract, lease, grant, or cooperative agreement under subsection (c)(3)(D) that is participating in the System shall be considered to be part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Any employee of such a non-Federal asset or regional information coordination entity, while operating within the scope of his or her employment in carrying out the purposes of this subtitle, with respect to tort liability, is deemed to be an employee of the Federal Government.

(f) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to invalidate existing certifications, contracts, or agreements between regional information coordination entities and other elements of the System.

**SEC. 12305. INTERAGENCY FINANCING AND AGREEMENTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out interagency activities under this subtitle, the Secretary of Commerce may execute cooperative agreements, or any other agreements, with, *disburse appropriated funds to*, and receive and expend funds made available by, any State or subdivision thereof, any Federal agency, or any public or private organization, or individual.

(b) RECIPROCITY.—Member Departments and agencies of the Council shall have the authority to create, support, and maintain joint centers, and to enter into and perform such contracts, leases, grants, and cooperative agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this subtitle and fulfillment of the System Plan.

\* \* \* \* \*

**SEC. 12311. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce [for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 such sums as are necessary] *\$47,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024* to fulfill the purposes of this subtitle and support activities identified in the annual coordinated System budget developed by the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee and submitted to the Congress.

\* \* \* \* \*

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, Texas  
CHAIRWOMAN

FRANK D. LUCAS, Oklahoma  
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

2321 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6301

(202) 225-6375  
www.science.house.gov

September 30, 2019

Chairman Raúl M. Grijalva  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

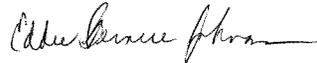
Dear Chairman Grijalva,

I am writing to you concerning H.R. 1314, the "Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act Amendments of 2019," which was referred to both the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology ("Science Committee") on February 19, 2019.

I agree to work cooperatively on this bill and the Science Committee will waive further consideration of H.R. 1314. This is, however, not a waiver of future jurisdictional claims by the Science Committee over this subject matter.

Thank you for agreeing to include our exchange of letters in the *Congressional Record*. Additionally, I ask that you support the appointment of Science Committee conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Sincerely,



Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Chairwoman

cc: Ranking Member Frank D. Lucas, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
Ranking Member Rob Bishop, Committee on Natural Resources  
Tom Wickham, Parliamentarian

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA OF ARIZONA  
CHAIRMAN

DAVID WATKINS  
STAFF DIRECTOR

ROB BISHOP OF UTAH  
RANKING REPUBLICAN

PARISH BRADEN  
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 30, 2019

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Chair  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Johnson,

I write to you concerning H.R. 1314 the, "Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act Amendments of 2019."

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. I acknowledge that your Committee will not formally consider H.R. 1314 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your Committee's Rule X jurisdiction.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the *Congressional Record* during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Chair  
House Natural Resources Committee

Cc: The Honorable Rob Bishop, Ranking Member  
The Honorable Thomas J. Wickham Jr., Parliamentarian

SUPPLEMENTAL, MINORITY, ADDITIONAL, OR DISSENTING VIEWS  
None.

