Dear Congressperson or Senator *[Enter name]*:

As a constituent and a beneficiary of New York’s Sea Grant program, I am writing to ask you to please request that the Appropriations Committee fully fund the National Sea Grant College Program in both Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 and FY 2026.

Sea Grant has benefitted from bipartisan congressional support since its creation in 1966 and leverages at least $3 for every $1 appropriated by Congress, investing those funds directly in support of local needs. In 2023, Sea Grant’s support resulted in a 9-fold return on investment, generating $828M in economic benefits from a $94M federal investment.

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) is part of a larger national network, enhancing the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine, and Great Lakes resources to create a sustainable economy, a healthy environment, and resilient communities.  Sea Grant is a community-based federal partnership that sustains thriving coastal economies and resilient communities across the nation. A joint federal, state, and local investment, Sea Grant works in 34 states and territories— yielding quantifiable economic, social, and environmental benefits.

By living and working directly in our community, NYSG staff quickly respond to local needs—from enabling seafood and maritime businesses to thrive, to providing communities with science-based solutions and tools to make informed decisions related to coastal resilience, to educating the next generation of coastal professionals and stewards.

*[state program or partners and supporters/signatories can include examples of how NYSG has helped them and the region’s economy]*

Sea Grant programs, including New York Sea Grant, deliver economic, environmental, and education benefits to our state and local decision makers. Sea Grant does this while also increasing our coastal communities’ resiliency in a cost-effective manner and by applying funds directly in the community. Sea Grant sends 95 percent of its appropriated funds to coastal and Great Lakes states through a competitive process. For those reasons and because of the importance of Sea Grant to the long-term health of our state, we urge you to strongly support the National Sea Grant College Program by submitting a programmatic request to the Appropriations Committee to fully fund the program in FY 2026 at the proposed levels. We further ask that you help facilitate the release of current FY 2025 funding for Sea Grant, which most state Sea Grant Programs, including New York, have not yet received.

Thank you for your consideration, and please reach out if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Name/Organization

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