



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0906

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Carl Gouldman, Director  
NOAA - FY2023 Ocean-Based Climate Resilience  
U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System  
1315 East-West Highway 2nd Floor  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Director Gouldman,

RE: Maritime Blue Ventures for Ocean-based Climate Solutions - Letter of Support


We request full and fair consideration of Washington Maritime Blue's application, *Maritime Blue Ventures for Ocean-based Climate Solutions*, to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Ocean-based Climate Resilience Accelerators funding opportunity.

Maritime Blue was launched in 2018 as a cluster organization to implement Washington state's strategy for a blue economy. Since then, Maritime Blue has had a significant impact helping Washington state lead in the clean energy economy and address some of our hardest climate challenges. This funding, if awarded, would enable Maritime Blue to expand recruitment efforts, curriculum, and mentorship opportunities within their Blue Venture programming.

Expanding Maritime Blue's recruitment process and curriculum to align with and connect to research institutions across Washington, Oregon, and Alaska, is critical to Maritime Blue's ability to help early to mid-stage startups navigate commercialization pathways for ocean-based climate resilience solutions and engage in meaningful mentorship opportunities. Maritime Blue's Blue Venture programming has become a national leader in supporting entrepreneurs and startups focused on ocean-based climate solutions, having supported more than 50 early-stage startups since 2019. Through programming that includes the Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator, the One Ocean Accelerator, and both the Seattle and Tacoma Maritime Blue Incubators, Maritime Blue supports early to mid-stage startups addressing challenges in its strategic focus areas including; ocean health, decarbonization, digitalization, sustainable fishing & seafood, and marine renewable energy.

Maritime Blue has a demonstrated history of their commitment to both the region's maritime industry and to the development of the local economy through regional partnership. For these reasons, we support Washington Maritime Blue's application to NOAA's Ocean-based Climate Resilience Accelerators funding opportunity, and we urge your fair and full consideration of their proposal.

Sincerely,



DEREK KILMER  
Member of Congress



MARILYN STRICKLAND  
Member of Congress



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RICK LARSEN  
Member of Congress

PRAMILA JAYAPAL  
Member of Congress

MARIA CANTWELL  
United States Senator

SUZAN DELBENE  
Member of Congress

ADAM SMITH  
Member of Congress

PATTY MURRAY  
United States Senator

DR. KIM SCHRIER  
Member of Congress