

February 3, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
United States of America

President Trump:

The Consortium for Ocean Leadership (COL) represents the leading ocean science and technology institutions across academia, industry, and aquaria, with the mission to shape the future of ocean sciences. As a retired admiral leading an organization dedicated to advancing ocean knowledge, I understand the need to protect the security of our nation and would like to emphasize the important role that science (especially ocean science) plays in our nation's security and prosperity. Public access to peer-reviewed science, along with strong international relations and collaboration, are the foundation of these benefits.

Ocean science has provided the U.S. with tangible military advantage on, under, and above the sea for decades. From our nautical victories during the earliest days of the U.S. Navy, to the success of maritime operations in all theaters of World War II, to our undersea dominance during the Cold War, ocean knowledge (developed through partnerships with international allies) has been key. This superiority in maritime domain awareness has always been a result of research by ocean scientists in the U.S. and our allied countries. Transparency and uninhibited exchange of ideas are critical to advancing our scientific knowledge. Our nation has had great success in attracting the brightest minds from across the globe, strengthening our scientific enterprise, our international relations, and thus our national security because of our dedication to these ideals.

Ocean science and technology also strengthen our homeland security, provide energy from numerous sources, enhance economic prosperity, support a safe and efficient marine transportation system, and contribute to improved human health. These are all built upon a foundation of sound science, which depends upon the protection of scientific integrity, which relies on transparency. Without the ability to communicate scientific findings and advancements, we lose tangible products and outputs upon which our nation depends. When ocean science is communicated to the public, our nation reaps the benefits on every scale – from people checking their weather app to plan their day; to building seasonal forecasts into a business model to know when, what, and where to ship products; to complex hurricane modeling that informs emergency management's evacuation decisions; to accurate forecasting that yields the best crop production; to better maritime domain awareness that protects our commerce and our coastlines.

Across scientific disciplines in this country, grave importance is given to the safe and responsible conduct of research. At the same time, our



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University of California, Santa Cruz  
University of Connecticut  
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University of Florida  
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University of Maine  
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science  
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University of Massachusetts, Lowell  
University of Miami  
University of Michigan  
University of Mississippi  
University of New Hampshire  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
University of North Carolina, Wilmington  
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University of South Carolina  
University of South Florida  
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Aquarium of the Pacific  
Arctic Research Consortium of the United States (ARCUS)  
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#### AFFILIATE MEMBERS

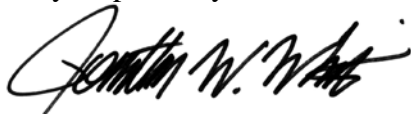
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nation as a whole benefits from the best international students and scientists choosing to study and work in the U.S., collaborate with U.S. scientists, participate in U.S. projects, and attend U.S. science conferences. This international free exchange of studies and ideas is what makes our science and economy thrive. For example, the immigrant inventor Nikola Tesla earned more than 100 U.S. patents, jumpstarting American innovation and contributing important advances in electricity and radio development. Fifteen nations partnered to build the world-class International Space Station, which has allowed for better monitoring of natural disasters to improved breast cancer detection and treatment. Scientists from nine countries worked together to identify the virus behind the deadly SARS outbreak with unprecedented speed. Nearly 200 countries share data from an international network of weather satellites, improving weather forecasts and alerts, including European satellites that help meteorologists track and forecast devastating storms like Sandy. Even during the Cold War, our scientists collaborated with those in the Soviet Union to create the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, which provides critical, timely warnings of these global hazards.

When contemplating governmental actions (whether temporary or permanent) that could impact the immigration of good scientists and limit the exchange of science communications, I ask that you also consider the significant, potential impact on our “scientific superiority,” which is and has always been of great benefit to America. Along with my esteemed colleagues at the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, I stand ready to assist and advise you and your administration on balancing scientific considerations in your approach to the important decisions that lie ahead, and to avoid potential unintended consequences

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jonathan W. White, RADM (Ret.), USN  
President and CEO  
Consortium for Ocean Leadership