



June 17, 2026

Brian Stone
National Science Foundation
2415 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: Opposition to the Removal of the Ocean Observatories Initiative Buoys & Coastal Endurance Array

Dear Mr. Stone,

As the Oregon Legislative Coastal Caucus, we write to express our strong opposition to the National Science Foundation’s ongoing removal of the Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI) floating buoys and associated infrastructure along the Pacific Northwest coast. These assets; particularly the Coastal Endurance Array off the coasts of Oregon and Washington, have been indispensable to the safety, economy, and scientific resilience of our coastal communities.

The OOI has provided continuous year-round measurements of ocean conditions across the Oregon and Washington continental shelf for more than a decade, combining fixed moorings, gliders, and advanced sensors to deliver real-time, publicly accessible data. This system was explicitly designed to democratize ocean information, supporting scientists, fishermen, mariners, educators, and emergency managers alike. Its removal represents a profound loss for Oregon and the nation.

We are deeply concerned that NSF’s “descoping” of the OOI and removing buoys off Oregon, Washington, Alaska, North Carolina, and Greenland by 2027, has proceeded without more scientific review, stakeholder consultation, or congressional direction.

The Endurance Array, has been essential for:

- **Maritime safety**, providing real-time wave, wind, and current data to fishermen, commercial vessels, and recreational mariners.
- **Climate and weather forecasting**, including early detection of marine heatwaves and El Niño-related anomalies.
- **Fisheries management**, supporting Oregon’s coastal economy, sustainability of critical species.
- **Emergency preparedness**, for coastal hazards and Cascadia Subduction Zone–related risks.

Oregon State Climatologist Larry O’Neill has warned that the loss of these systems is a “huge step back” for the state’s economy and for the ability of coastal workers to operate safely. He further noted that the absence of these data streams will hinder the tracking of major weather events at a time when a “super El Niño” is approaching.



Oregon Coastal Caucus

Rep. Court Boice, Chair
Sen. David Brock Smith, Vice Chair
Sen. Dick Anderson
Sen. Suzanne Weber
Rep. Boomer Wright
Rep. Cyrus Javadi
Rep. David Gomberg

For Oregon’s coastal communities, whose livelihoods depend on accurate, real time ocean information, the removal of these buoys is not an abstract policy decision. It is a direct threat to safety, economic stability, and our ability to respond to rapidly changing ocean conditions.

We therefore respectfully request that NSF:

1. **Immediately pause all further removal of OOI buoys and infrastructure** along the Pacific Northwest coast.
2. **Initiate a transparent scientific review**, including consultation with Oregon State University, the University of Washington, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and coastal stakeholders.
3. **Provide Congress and the public with a detailed justification** for the descoping decision, including cost analyses, risk assessments, and alternative options.

Oregon’s coastal residents, industries, and scientific institutions rely on these systems every day. We urge the National Science Foundation to reverse course and preserve the OOI infrastructure that protects lives, supports our economy, and advances our understanding of a rapidly changing ocean.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We stand ready to work with you to ensure that Oregon’s coast and the nation, continues to benefit from robust, transparent, and science-driven ocean observation.

Sincerely,

Rep. Court Boice, Chair

Sen. David Brock Smith, Vice Chair

Sen. Suzanne Weber

Sen. Dick Anderson

Rep. Boomer Wright

Rep. Cyrus Javadi

Rep. David Gomberg