

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

June 20, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write today to respectfully request that you invite Commerce Secretary Ross to appear before our Committee as soon as possible to provide testimony on the FY 2018 budget request from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

NOAA's core mission is to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts; to share that knowledge and information with others; and to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources, including marine fisheries. From navigation to coastal protection to healthy fish stocks, NOAA's work has incredible public safety and economic benefits to our country but the Administration's budget request does not seem to recognize those important contributions.

Instead, the Department of Commerce has requested a 17 percent funding decrease from the FY 2017 CR level and proposed deep cuts to several key NOAA accounts: Ocean and Atmospheric Research (27%), Fisheries (14%), and the National Ocean Service (27%). The Committee needs to hear from Secretary Ross how he expects NOAA to fulfill its duties to the American people with such drastically reduced funding.

I look forward to your response and to seeing an invitation to the Secretary to discuss these matters soon.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources