

The NOAA Organic Act

Enshrining the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in law, reforming its mission, and establishing it as a standalone agency.

NOAA has a critical mission:

- From weather prediction to environmental observations to managing our fisheries, NOAA's work supports more than one-third of our economy.
- NOAA is tasked with observing and collecting data about our environment, providing actionable information for businesses, government agencies, and individuals.
- Within NOAA, the National Weather Service (NWS) provides essential weather forecasts, monitors severe weather, and communicates life-saving information to communities and government agencies.

The NOAA Organic Act is a simple, good-government bill:

- NOAA currently operates within the Department of Commerce, where it is one of many bureaus and offices.
- Despite NOAA's importance, it has never been enshrined in law. It was created by an executive order and that remains the source of its authority.
- Now that Republicans have the majority in the House, we won't be blindly funding agencies without looking at their authorizations.
- Establishing NOAA's statutory authority through an organic act allows us to streamline its mission, improve efficiency, and make better funding and oversight decisions.
- The NOAA Organic Act doesn't add or change existing priorities—instead, it gives NOAA the independence and structure it needs to operate more efficiently.

Key Provisions in the NOAA Organic Act:

- Establishes NOAA in law and stands it up as an independent agency.
- Promotes scientific integrity and strategic research.
 - Requires NOAA's Science Advisory Board to develop a strategic R&D plan every 5 years.
- Preserves and supports the National Weather Service's work within NOAA.
 - Supports NWS's critical work providing forecasts, monitoring severe weather, and communicating weather information to local, state, and federal authorities.
- Directs efficient reorganization.
 - Requires NOAA to submit a reorganization plan that will prioritize how NOAA can best carry out its core mission while promoting collaboration and reducing duplication within the agency.
- Consolidates NOAA's mission by removing Space Commerce.
 - Affirms the Office of Space Commerce as its own entity within Commerce.
 - With the rapid growth of the commercial space sector and its growing importance to the national economy, space commerce deserves a higher place within Commerce.