

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI
MARYLAND

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

September 15, 2006

Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans & Atmosphere
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-6233

Dear Vice Admiral Lautenbacher & Friends:

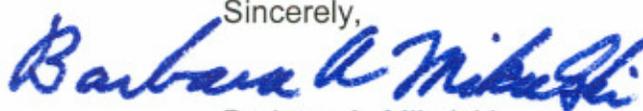
Greetings and congratulations to the leadership and staff at NOAA on the occasion of your celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month 2006. Since its inception in 1968, we mark Hispanic Heritage Month by recognizing and applauding the extraordinary achievements of Hispanic Americans and the vitality of the Hispanic community in the United States. This year's nationwide theme is appropriately "Hispanic Americans: Our Rich Culture Contributing to America's Future". Hispanic Americans bring thousands of years of history, culture and tradition that should be respected, honored and preserved.

Hispanics are currently the largest minority in the United States with an estimated population of 42.7M. With a 3.3% increase from July 2004 to July 2005, they are also the fastest growing group. Like other immigrant groups, you have come to the United States for economic opportunity and political freedom. For my part, I am advancing your aspiration agenda in the United States Senate. I am fighting for jobs that stay in this country, healthcare at any age, a pension that you can count on, access to higher education to follow the American dream, public schools that families can depend on, energy you can afford and a fiscally responsible, competent government.

Know that I am on your side. I am so grateful for the exceptional service provided by all the employees at NOAA. I know you hold sacred your mission to understand and predict changes in the environment, as well as to conserve and manage coastal and marine resources. The least we can do is offer you good basic benefits: fair pay, secure retirement and access to affordable quality health care. I am also committed to controlling the current trend toward the outsourcing of federal jobs. You work hard for us and I will always work hard for you.

Thank you for all you do everyday to make our nation safer, smarter and stronger. And thank you for letting me share this important day with you.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO
OFFICE INDICATED:

- 1629 THAMES STREET, SUITE 400
BALTIMORE, MD 21231
(410) 962-4510
VOICE/TDD: (410) 962-4512
- 60 WEST STREET, SUITE 202
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401-2448
(410) 263-1805
BALTIMORE: (410) 269-1650
- 6404 IVY LANE, SUITE 406
GREENBELT, MD 20770-1407
(301) 345-5517
- 94 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
HAGERSTOWN, MD 27140-4804
(301) 797-2826
- SUITE 1E, BUILDING B
1201 PEMBERTON DRIVE
SALISBURY, MD 21801-2403
(410) 546-7711