

Ocean Exploration Advisory Board
A Federal Advisory Committee Act Board
May 28, 2020

Mr. John Kreider
Chair
OEAB Subcommittee on the Blue Economy

Dear Mr. Kreider:

Thank you again for taking time to brief the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board on the Blue Economy Subcommittee's interim report. The OEAB commends you and the other subcommittee members on a thorough, well-organized report that outlines important steps that can be taken to accelerate the growth of the Blue Economy.

The OEAB has minor suggestions for changes to the report before it is forwarded to Dr. Jacob:

The OEAB observed that all the recommendations include quick wins and that ocean exploration is a catalyst for each of them. The two right-hand columns on the summary table ("Quick Wins" and "OE as an Enabler") might therefore be deleted and text added in the summary and introduction stating that the subcommittee understands that ocean exploration is a catalyst for understanding ocean resources and processes that drive the Blue Economy.

As the subcommittee continues work toward submitting a final report in November 2020, the OEAB requests that it delve more deeply into issues of data and data stewardship and the important role NOAA and other federal agencies play in validating data quality and making data and information available to various stakeholders in the Blue Economy. The OEAB also requests that the subcommittee consider the tourism and recreation sector, including the cruise ship industry, as an important contributor to the Blue Economy.

Please don't hesitate to ask if the OEAB can be of assistance as the subcommittee continues its deliberations.

Sincerely,



Ambassador Cameron R. Hume
Interim Chair