



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

FEB - 5 2019

Mr. John Kreider
Chair
NOAA Ocean Exploration Advisory Board
NOAA Ocean Exploration and Research
7600 Sand Point
Seattle, WA 98115

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter and interest in a Blue Economy Subcommittee within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Ocean Exploration Advisory Board (OEAB). As we discussed at the OEAB meeting held in September 2018, I am pleased with your approach to draft a tasking statement and include my team in selecting potential Subcommittee members.

NOAA is poised to significantly build upon our extraordinary successes in ocean exploration in 2018. We've received strong support in the White House's recent document titled, "Science and Technology for America's Oceans: A Decadal Vision", as well as the public roll out of the National Science and Technology Council's Committee on STEM Education Strategy. We are going to promote our ocean exploration program even further in 2019 on the Hill, in the White House, and to the public.

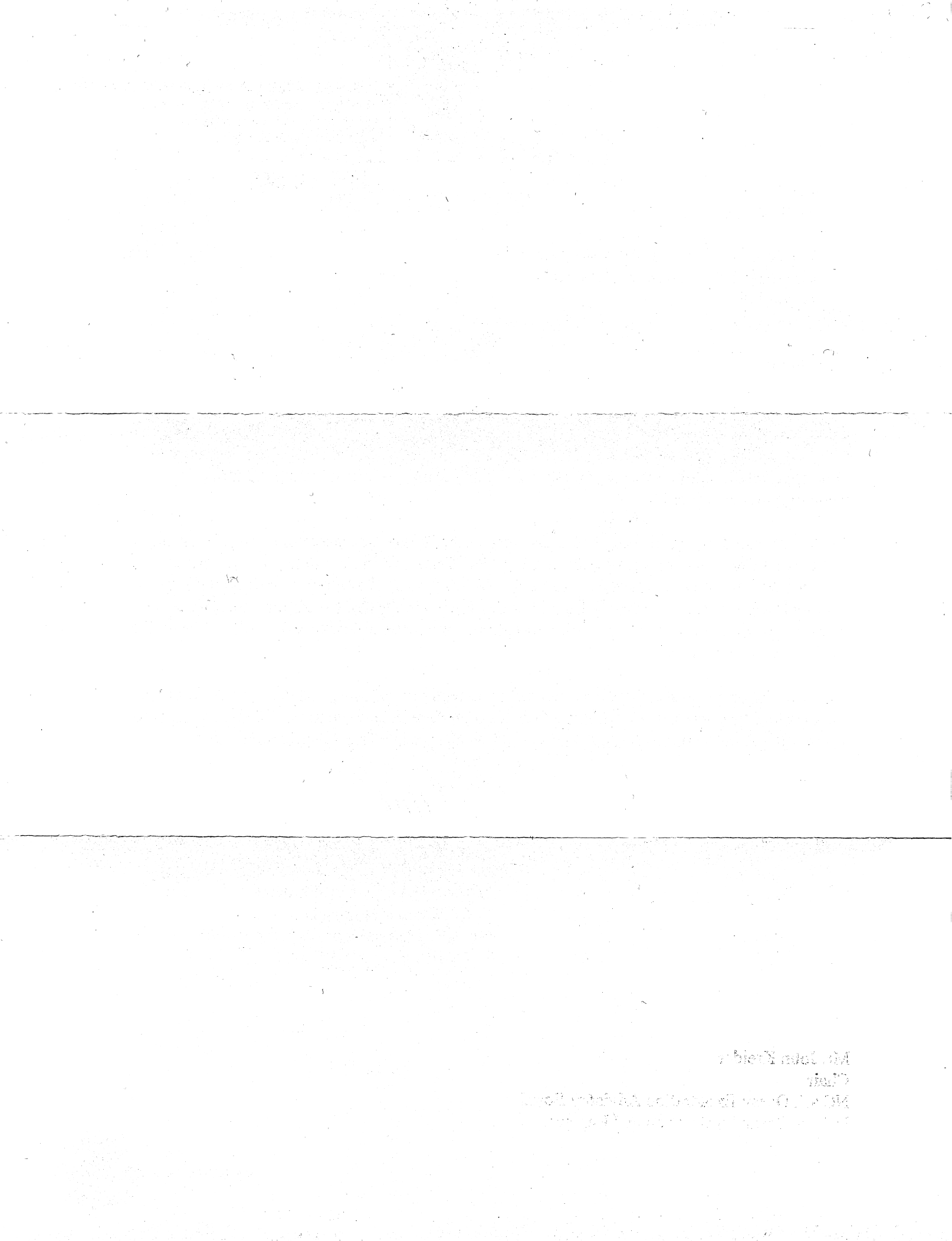
I am grateful and energized by the increased partnership between us and the OEAB, and look forward to future progress in implementing the board's recommendations. Thank you again for your strong support and expert advice regarding NOAA's ocean exploration activities.

Sincerely,

Rear Admiral Tim Gallaudet, Ph.D., USN Ret.
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere and
Acting Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere

THE ADMINISTRATOR





Mr. John Field
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The National Academy of Sciences
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