

**Ocean Exploration Advisory Board**  
*A Federal Advisory Committee Act Board*  
13 August 2019

Dr. Neil Jacobs  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction,  
Performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Commerce  
for Oceans and Atmosphere  
14<sup>th</sup> and Constitution, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Jacobs:

***Subject: OEAB Recommendations for Ocean Exploration Vision Statement***

At a recent meeting of the NOAA Ocean Exploration Advisory Board (OEAB) on 31 July 2019, the Deputy NOAA Administrator, Tim Gallaudet, requested advice and recommendations from the OEAB on a Compelling Vision Statement for Ocean Exploration. The attached white paper responds to that request.

The OEAB discussed the matter at our meeting, then members individually compiled statements, followed by a vote of OEAB membership. Seventeen statements were drafted. The subsequent vote was spread among many statements. All statements are included in the attachment. The top choice was as follows:

*We choose to explore our oceans, to their ultimate extremes, for the health and prosperity of our nation and the security of all humankind depends upon them.*

Please feel free to contact me if we can be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



John R. Kreider  
Chair, NOAA Ocean Exploration Advisory Board

Cc: RDML Timothy Gallaudet (USN, ret)  
Dr. Stuart Levenbach  
Mr. Kevin Wheeler  
Mr. Craig McLean  
Dr. Alan Leonardi  
Mr. David McKinnie  
NOAA OEAB