

U.S. SENATOR BEN CARDIN



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September 27, 2023

Dear Friends:

I'm pleased to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Hydrographic Services Review Panel Federal Advisory Committee Meeting. Thanks to Rear Admiral Ben Evans for giving me this opportunity.

For over 50 years, NOAA has done the important work of advancing our understanding of the natural world through its research programs and scientific initiatives. NOAA not only provides much needed monitoring and analysis of our climate, but also uses its products and services to support our economy, affecting more than one third of U.S. GDP. With the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, NOAA has become even more empowered to build a climate-ready nation that is well-prepared to face weather events. I was proud to vote for both of these pieces of legislation, providing billions in funding to NOAA to ensure that you continue your crucial mission.

This public meeting provides a valuable opportunity to discuss maritime products, services, and data needs while meeting with stakeholders and partners in your work. This feedback will inform NOAA's services and activities to better serve Americans, particularly those living in maritime and coastal areas.

I commend the Federal Advisory Committee for hosting this meeting and continuing your work to better serve our communities. Best wishes for a wonderful event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben Cardin".

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senate