

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
WILLIAM F. BROGLIE
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON
H.R. 5350: TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TO SELL OR
EXCHANGE CERTAIN NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC
ADMINISTRATION PROPERTY LOCATED IN NORFOLK, VIRGINIA, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, WILDLIFE AND OCEANS
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

April 24, 2008

Good morning Chairwoman Bordallo, Ranking Member Brown, and Members of the Subcommittee. I am William Broglie, Chief Administrative Officer at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in the Department of Commerce. I am pleased to be here today to discuss with you NOAA's comments on H.R. 5350. This bill would authorize the Secretary of Commerce to sell or exchange certain NOAA property located in Norfolk, Virginia, to the City of Norfolk.

NOAA presently owns and occupies several properties in Norfolk. The two most notable are the Marine Operations Center on York Street, and that National Geodetic Survey site located at 538 Front Street. The City of Norfolk has expressed interest in acquiring the National Geodetic Survey site on Front Street from NOAA.

This property consists of 3.78 acres with a single 7,000 square foot office building, surrounding parking, and lot storage area. The Federal Government purchased 538 Front Street from the Norfolk Redevelopment Authority in 1970 to support NOAA's Marine Operations Center-Atlantic which was established in 1961 across a small inlet ("The Hague") from the subject property.

The building on the property serves as offices and work space for NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (NGS) Norfolk Field Operations office. Other portions of the property, outside the main building, provide field areas for instrument calibration, field testing and training, and storage for vessels, marine equipment, and trailers. NOAA's Marine Operations Center-Atlantic (MOC-A) uses portions of the property to store some equipment.

NOAA has been contacted in the past, both by public-private ventures and by the City of Norfolk regarding possible acquisition of the property. The property at this site is

utilized, as NOAA has a continuing mission that is being served at this location. The property is not excess property; and NOAA has no other owned property in its inventory that can meet the current NOAA mission requirements supported at this site.

NOAA would not object to a legislative initiative that would allow NOAA to exchange the existing NGS property for an alternative site that meets the mission requirements of NOAA, but only if such an exchange would result in no additional costs to either develop or operate the facility.

The language in H.R. 5350 provides discretion for NOAA to convey the subject parcel, but it also provides protections for NOAA by not mandating the property conveyance. The proposed legislation would allow NOAA and the City of Norfolk to conduct negotiations regarding possible options that would meet both the City's objectives and NOAA's. The proposed legislation provides the Secretary of Commerce with the discretion to determine whether any conveyance is in the best interests of the Government, which would allow the Secretary to ensure any such exchange would not result in additional development or operational costs for NOAA.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have.