



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
**COMMERCE, SCIENCE, & TRANSPORTATION**

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**Senator Maria Cantwell**

**U.S. Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation**  
**Hearing: Department of Commerce Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Priorities**  
**Witness: Secretary Raimondo**

**April 27, 2022**

**[VIDEO](#)**

**Opening Statement**

Today, we will hear from Department of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo about the Department's budget request for the Fiscal Year 2023. Welcome Madam Secretary.

The Department of Commerce's duty is to "foster, promote, and develop foreign and domestic commerce" and the Secretary has been very busy doing that on many fronts.

Today we will hear about the President's budget request, and obviously, the various agencies within the Department of Commerce.

I would like to start with NOAA. I see that you are seeking an increase of about 17% over current funding. The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration has never been more important to families facing the climate burdens and extreme storms, weather, flooding, and drought.

We look forward to NOAA's efforts to help ensure and sustain fisheries in the United States and to invest in innovation that will build strong and resilient communities and coastal economies -- something I'm sure you know a lot about as a former governor of a coastal state. We look forward to your work and thoughts on how we make continued investment.

I'm looking forward to the department's response on how bipartisan infrastructure funding in these areas can help address salmon decline and I look forward to hearing any updates from you on the Office of Space and Commerce that resides within NOAA. Our colleagues here are very interested in that. I think Senator Wicker and I sent a letter to you on that issue.

I also wanted to mention that Senator Wicker and I have been working on a NOAA Organic Act. We think this is very important in strengthening the science voices of the department and we very much appreciate Dr. Spinrad's helpfulness in this. We look forward to continuing to work with you on that issue.

Secretary Raimondo also oversees the National Telecommunications and Information Administration ("NTIA") – and also seeking an increase. And these funds will help NTIA continue their work on spectrum management, broadband, cybersecurity, and privacy; another

very important aspect of what our government is facing at this time in cybersecurity and the impacts of what we saw with the Colonial Pipeline makes this investment very necessary.

As our airwaves get more crowded and our spectrum becomes scarcer, it is critical that NTIA ensures the process of sharing federal spectrum goes smoothly and includes working with various federal agencies including NASA, NOAA and FAA, along with the commercial interests.

Broadband funding and equity I'm sure will be an issue that comes up at today's hearing, given the bipartisan infrastructure investment and how we continue to move forward on deployment.

Front and center in our minds in the United States Senate at this moment is how we get to conference on the United States Innovation and Competition Act ("USICA"); how we give you the tools to help us to be more competitive in this economy.

This committee did good work more than a year ago to help give the department the ability to respond to and prevent supply chain problems and crises. And competition.

Your budget builds on programs like the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program and programs that assist small- and medium-sized manufacturers by supporting them on workforce training, supply chain resiliency, and technology development.

Obviously, the agency, if the USICA would pass, would receive \$52 billion in funding to help us with this CHIPS supply chain shortage and issues and I look forward to asking you questions about that and our competitiveness in this area. We had a hearing before we left for recess with many of the chip manufacturers in the United States and they told us that we didn't have time to wait. So I hope our colleagues will heed that and help us move forward.

In February, you issued a report on our nation's Information and Communications Technology supply chain that revealed a lack of supply chain diversity and domestic production, and an underinvestment in our domestic workforce. I look forward to hearing how the budget will help us on that.

The current state of challenges are many. We look forward to hearing your comments.