



ENVIRONMENTAL ENTREPRENEURS®

The Independent Business Voice for the Environment

www.e2.org

April 18, 2012

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chair
U.S. Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Inouye and Cochran,

On behalf of Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2), we write in opposition to the inclusion of a funding prohibition or any limitation on the implementation of the National Ocean Policy (NOP) in any of the appropriations bills. The National Ocean Policy, which is set out in Executive Order No. 13547 ("Stewardship of our Oceans, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes"), is an important guide for federal decisions affecting our oceans and coasts, and the many jobs, businesses and communities that depend on them. Implementation of this policy will spur economic growth while conserving the natural resources and marine habitat of our oceans and coastal regions.

E2 represents a national community of over 800 business leaders who promote strong environmental policy to grow the economy. We are entrepreneurs, investors, and professionals who collectively manage over \$90 billion of venture capital and private equity, and have started well over 1,100 businesses which in turn have created over 500,000 jobs.

Healthy oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes are a vital part of a healthy U.S. economy. A significant amount of the U.S. economic strength comes from recreation, tourism, and fishing, which depend on clean beaches, clean water, and abundant fish and wildlife. In 2009, tourism and recreation alone contributed more than \$61 billion to the nation's GDP and were responsible for more than 1.8 million jobs. A 2011 report exploring fisheries economics found that the commercial fishing industry generated over \$116 billion in sales and \$31.5 billion in income, and supported more than 1 million jobs in 2009; expenditures by recreational fishermen generated nearly \$50 billion in sales and supported more than 320,000 jobs.

This economic value is threatened by the declining health of our nation's ocean ecosystems and resources, a decline documented by not one, but two bi-partisan national commissions: the Pew Oceans Commission chaired by the Honorable Leon Panetta and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy chaired by Admiral James Watkins (ret.). Threats from over-exploitation, habitat degradation, coastal pollution, and competing usage, are impacting our ocean and coastal health, and, in turn jeopardizing the jobs and ecosystem services that our oceans currently provide. For example, nationwide, the number of beach closings and advisories in 2010 reached 24,091 — the second-highest level since tracking began, 21 years ago. Protecting and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes will help to preserve jobs and protect the health of our economy.

One major obstacle to sound stewardship of our oceans is the fact that they are currently governed by a mix of more than 140 laws and 20 different federal agencies that govern activities

affecting ocean resources. Their policies are too often uncoordinated and the results too often harm our ocean.

The national ocean policy established by EO 13547 will save taxpayer dollars by improving government efficiency; reducing duplication between agencies; increasing coordination; and ensuring the comprehensive data collection and public involvement that informs decision-making. It will establish better ocean management through regional partnerships, stakeholder engagement, science-based decisions, and an open public process where all ocean users have a seat at the table. Ensuring that agencies that oversee different activities in the ocean coordinate their work will avoid conflicts and provide industry with greater certainty and predictability.

For all these reasons, we urge you to strongly oppose any language prohibiting or limiting the use of funds for implementation of the National Ocean Policy.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

The following 217 E2 members have signed this letter (sorted by State):

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