

April 25, 2012

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Inouye and Cochran and Representatives Rogers and Dicks:

The National Ocean Policy is designed to stimulate job creation and economic growth while conserving the natural resources and marine habitat of our oceans and coastal regions. With its implementation the National Ocean Policy will provide great benefits to the Nation's economic growth and the expansion of new jobs and businesses. As representatives of ocean and coastal-based industries we urge you to oppose all attempts to eliminate funding for or restrict implementation of the National Ocean Policy.

Our nation's waterways are managed by more than 20 federal agencies – in addition to local and state governments – and subject to more than 140 different laws and regulations, resulting in inefficient and uncoordinated management. This system of ocean and coastal management presents a sector-by-sector, permit by permit approach of doing business and created more challenges for economic development that was compatible with long-term stewardship. The National Ocean Policy seeks to align ocean and coastal-related Federal agency actions and priorities to reduce regulatory uncertainty at all levels of government. This will better serve our economic, environmental and national security needs.

The National Ocean Policy is founded on the recommendations of two bipartisan ocean commissions and was developed through a lengthy process of engagement with multiple sectors of industry and coastal businesses and stakeholder participation. The National Ocean Council was established to provide high-level and sustained coordination of ocean, coastal and Great Lakes issues.

The National Ocean Policy is a common-sense approach to smart and efficient stewardship of our oceans and coasts. It directs government agencies with differing mandates – from overseeing military readiness, fishing, shipping, offshore energy, to coastal development – to coordinate and work better together. The National Ocean Policy will improve government efficiency by reducing duplication between agencies, increasing coordination, and streamlining the data collection and stakeholder involvement that informs decision-making. This will save taxpayers money, resulting in a strong return on the investment made in this policy.

Our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes are incredible engines of economic development and jobs. We need a modern system of ocean and coastal management that meets the realities of a modern, integrated economy. We strongly urge you to support the full implementation of the National Ocean Policy and to oppose any measures that seek to eliminate funding or interfere with implementation of the National Ocean Policy.

Sincerely,

William M. Moore
Chief Executive Officer
Deepwater Wind
Providence, RI

Richard Nelson
Lobsterman
Captain F/V Pescadero
Friendship, ME

Sarah Schumann
Captain F/V Nushagak
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