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
Narragansett, RI

Tedd Saunders
President
EcoLogical Solutions Inc. & Chief Sustainability Officer
The Saunders Hotel Group
Boston, MA

Andy Lipsky
Senior Scientist
EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc.
Warwick, RI

Marc Shargel
Owner, Living Sea Images
Marine life photographer, author and book publisher
Felton, CA
Judith Albert  
Executive Director  
Environmental Entrepreneurs  
New York, NY

Jim Lanard  
President  
Offshore Wind Development Coalition  
Washington, DC

John Williamson  
Seakeeper Charters, LLC  
Kennebunk, ME

Margo Pellegrino  
Miami2Maine  
Medford Lakes, NJ

Markian Melnyk  
President  
Atlantic Grid Development, LLC  
Chevy Chase, MD

Timothy W. Janaitis  
Director  
Business Development  
Phoenix International Holdings, Inc.  
Largo, MD

Paul R. Cooper  
Vice President  
CARIS  
Alexandria, VA

Mike Conner  
Co-Principal  
Mean Tide Media, LLC  
Stuart, FL
Justin Rieger
Captain
Just-in-Time Charters
Port St. Lucie, FL

Ryan Floyd
Captain
Off the Bank Charters
Port St. Lucie, FL

Terry Gibson
Principal
North Swell Media
Jensen Beach, FL

Bill Staby
CEO
Resolute Marine Energy, Inc.
Boston, MA

Greg Barron
Operations Director
Incredible Adventures
Sarasota, FL

Shana Phelan
Dive Facility Manager
Pura Vida Divers
Singer Island, FL