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PRESS STATEMENT FROM: The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative

Browner Appointment Applauded by Joint Ocean Commission

December 10, 2008 (Washington, D.C.) – This afternoon, President-elect Obama announced his pick of Carol Browner for the newly-created White House position as head of environmental, energy, climate and related matters.

The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative applauds this appointment and calls on Ms. Browner to immediately mobilize the departments of Energy, Interior, and Commerce as well as the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies to increase investments in ocean and climate science, lay the foundation for a comprehensive national ocean policy, and secure the country's economic and national security through U.S. accession to the Law of the Sea Convention.

"I am more than pleased that the President-elect selected someone for this post who has a notable history of leadership. I think this is a very wise choice that could potentially take us into a new and necessary era of policy that incorporates oceans into our national energy and climate change strategy. I've worked with Carol and know her to be truly dedicated and experienced."

For more information on the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative and our work, please visit www.jointoceancommission.org.

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The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative is a collaborative effort of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and Pew Oceans Commission to catalyze ocean policy reform. The Joint Initiative is guided by a ten-member task force, five from each commission, and led by Admiral James D. Watkins (U.S. Navy, Ret.) and the Honorable Leon E. Panetta, chairs of the U.S. Commission and Pew Commission, respectively. The primary goal of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative is to accelerate the pace of change that results in meaningful ocean policy reform.