

Senator Barbara A. Mikulski
Senator John A. Sununu
Senator Christopher J. Dodd
Senator Thad Cochran
Senator Barbara Boxer

Senator Richard C. Shelby
Senator Daniel K. Inouye
Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Olympia J. Snowe
Senator Maria Cantwell

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

June 13, 2006

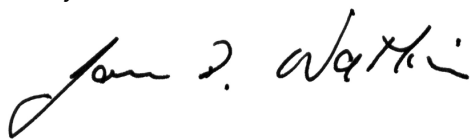
Dear Senators:

The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative is pleased to submit for your consideration the enclosed report, *From Sea to Shining Sea: Priorities for Ocean Policy Reform*. The report responds to your letter requesting the Joint Initiative to identify the ten ocean-related governance, science, and education reforms of highest priority to members of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input to your important work, and we applaud the Senate's leadership and commitment to more sustainable management of our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes, as evidenced by the chamber's continuing action on ocean-related legislation.

The enclosed report describes ten actions on which the Congress should focus to make meaningful progress on ocean policy reform consistent with the two Commissions' recommendations. Each of the ten is of critical importance if we are to address both the short- and long-term challenges facing our oceans and coasts. They range from specific, near-term actions, such as passage of currently pending legislation, to long-term fundamental reforms, such as the establishment of new regimes for facilitating the coordination of federal, state, and regional ocean efforts, which will require significant commitment if they are to be realized. Finally, we also offer specific suggestions about funding levels needed to implement the actions described in the report.

The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative is grateful for this opportunity, and we stand ready to work with you and your Congressional colleagues to make meaningful progress on ocean policy reform. While there are many significant challenges ahead, there is also cause for great optimism that we as a nation can adjust our course. Working together, we can ensure that the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes are healthy and productive, now and for future generations.

Sincerely,



James D. Watkins
Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)
Chair, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy



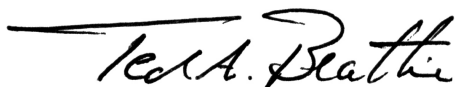
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Chair, Pew Oceans Commission



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President, Natural Resources Defense Council



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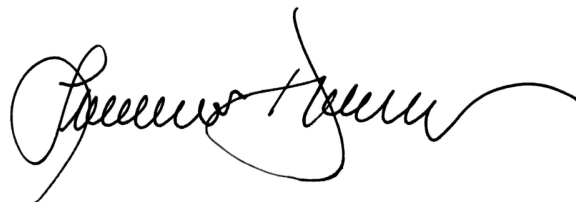
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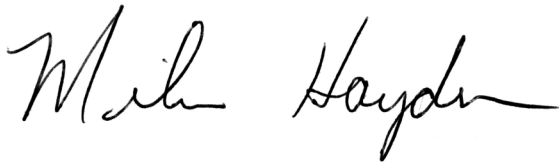
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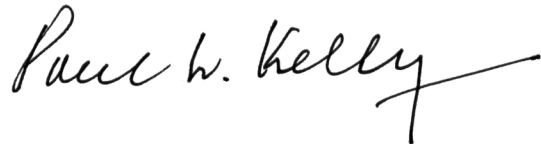
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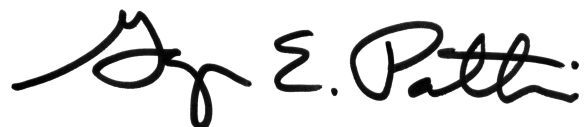
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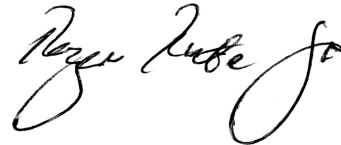
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