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Commission Initiative
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The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Hart Senate Office Building, SH-112
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

October 3, 2011

Dear Chairwoman Boxer,

On behalf of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, we are writing to thank you for including the National Endowment for the Oceans, Coasts, and Great Lakes in the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2011 (RESTORE Act). We congratulate you and your colleagues on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee for passing this important legislation out of the committee. This is a tremendous step forward in establishing a much-needed stream of funding to protect the ocean and coastal ecosystems upon which so many people's health and livelihood depend.

As you know, the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative has long called for a dedicated funding source to improve ocean and coastal science, management, and ecosystem restoration at the federal, state, and local levels. We commend your continued leadership on ocean issues and your dedication to the establishment of the National Endowment for the Oceans in order to provide the sustained funding needed to achieve healthy oceans and coasts and to help effectively implement the National Ocean Policy.

The RESTORE Act, and the National Endowment for the Oceans, stand at an important juncture as it awaits approval by the full Senate. This legislation is crucial to Gulf Coast communities as well as coastal communities around the nation. The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative stands ready to help build support for this measure and help move the RESTORE Act toward enactment in this Congress.

Sincerely,



The Honorable William Ruckelshaus
Co-Chair, Joint Ocean Commission Initiative



The Honorable Norman Mineta
Co-Chair, Joint Ocean Commission Initiative

CC: The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse, Senator of Rhode Island