

June 13, 2006

Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building, Room 909
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Majority Leader Bruno,

I am writing as a former member of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and current member of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, a collaborative effort of the members of the U.S. Commission and the Pew Oceans Commission, to urge passage of S. 7244-A, the New York Ocean and Bays Protection Act. Enacting this bill will make New York a national leader in ocean management. It is a model of the type of responsible action we need at the national level for our oceans.

The act, as introduced and approved by the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, takes an important step forward in ocean conservation by creating a New York Ocean and Bays Protection Council to integrate and coordinate management of the state's marine resources and by directing the Council to develop a comprehensive state ocean management plan.

While serving on the congressionally-established U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, I became acutely aware of the serious threats to our nation's oceans and the need for urgent action to address these threats. More coordinated and effective management of oceans was one of the Commission's key recommendations. S. 7244-A promotes improved coordination and management of New York State's marine resources and would be directly in line with the recommendations of the Ocean Commission

States can be important leaders in the efforts to promote effective ocean management since they control what happens within 3 miles of shore. A lot goes on in this near shore area that is vital to the health and productivity of the oceans overall. In addition, states, by setting an example, can help pave the way for much-needed action at the federal level.

I thank you for your leadership, and I urge you to support prompt passage of S. 7244-A.

Sincerely,



William D. Ruckelshaus