

# Friends of NOAA Coalition

September 11, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Majority Leader  
U.S. Capitol  
Office 221  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
U.S. Capitol  
Office 230  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

The undersigned members of the ocean and coastal research, education, and conservation community would like to thank you for your strong support of ocean and coastal science and conservation in the U.S. Senate. We strongly support the important ocean and coastal related bills included in S. 3297 – Hydrographic Services Improvement Act, Ocean Exploration and NOAA Undersea Research Program Act, Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act, Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act, Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act, and National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act. We collectively urge the Senate to remain diligent in its efforts to seek passage of these much needed improvements in ocean policy at the earliest available opportunity.

These bills will increase our understanding of coastal, ocean and Great Lake ecosystems and promote both conservation and sustainable use. All of the bills have passed the House of Representatives and have been reported out of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee with bipartisan support.

With more than 50 percent of the U.S. population living in coastal counties, these regions are vital contributors to our economy, quality of life and national security. With an ever-changing climate, increasing natural hazards, and declining fisheries, we need the tools to protect and manage our ocean assets and better understand how ocean and coastal ecosystems respond to natural and human-related hazards.

We hope you will demonstrate your continued commitment to strengthening our Nation's understanding and conservation of the oceans and coasts through Senate consideration of these measures.

Sincerely,

National Association of Marine Laboratories  
Sea Grant Association  
Consortium for Ocean Leadership  
Joint Ocean Commission Initiative  
National Federation of Regional Associations for  
Coastal and Ocean Observing  
Reinsurance Association of America  
Campaign for Environmental Literacy

League of Conservation Voters  
Association of Zoos and Aquariums  
University Corporation for Atmospheric  
Research  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Coastal States Organization  
National Association of State Universities and  
Land Grant Colleges

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Maryland Sea Grant  
University of Southern Mississippi  
MK & CO  
University of Washington  
Ocean Initiative, Natural Resources Defense  
Council  
Oceana  
Marine Conservation Biology Institute  
School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences,  
Stony Brook University  
North Carolina Sea Grant Program  
Florida Sea Grant College Program  
USC Sea Grant  
New York Sea Grant  
Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, Georgia  
Savannah State University  
Delaware Sea Grant  
Baruch Institute, University of South Carolina  
Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, University of  
Maryland Center for Environmental Science  
New Hampshire Sea Grant  
University of New Hampshire Marine Program  
Annis Water Resources Institute, Grand Valley  
State University, Michigan  
Alaska SeaLife Center  
Center for Coastal Studies, Texas A&M  
University-Corpus Christi  
Harte Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, Texas  
Maine Sea Grant  
Pennsylvania Sea Grant  
National Institute for Undersea Science and  
Technology University of Mississippi  
University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program  
Romberg Tiburon Center, San Francisco State  
University  
Michigan Sea Grant  
Louisiana Sea Grant  
Rhode Island Sea Grant  
Woods Hole Sea Grant  
Center for Marine and Coastal Sciences,  
California Polytechnic State University  
University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute and  
Water Resources Institute  
South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium  
California Sea Grant  
Minnesota Sea Grant  
American Association of Port Authorities  
University of North Carolina Institute of Marine  
Sciences  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
Ohio Sea Grant College Program  
F. T. Stone Laboratory

Center for Lake Erie Area Research  
Seahorse Key Marine Laboratory, University of  
Florida  
Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience,  
University of Florida  
Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Alabama  
Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and  
Science, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
Shoals Marine Laboratory, Cornell University  
California Sea Grant  
UCLA Institute of the Environment  
Battelle  
Alliance for Earth Observations  
Texas Sea Grant  
Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences,  
Rutgers University  
Raytheon Company  
Great Lakes Commission  
West Marine  
Marine Programs, University of Connecticut  
Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota, Florida  
Southeast Environmental Research Center,  
Florida International University  
Large Lakes Observatory, University of  
Minnesota Duluth  
University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine  
and Atmospheric Science  
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation  
Marine Laboratory  
Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium  
Great Lakes WATER Institute, University of  
Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
The University of Texas Marine Science Institute  
MIT Sea Grant College Program  
Virginia Sea Grant Program  
Connecticut Sea Grant Program  
Old Woman Creek NERR Advisory Council  
WeatherBank, Inc.  
Commercial Weather Services Association  
Duke University Marine Laboratory  
Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences  
Texas A&M University at Galveston  
Texas Institute of Oceanography  
Institute for Exploration  
Restore America's Estuaries  
University of Puerto Rico Sea Grant College  
Program  
Perry Institute for Marine Science  
American Society of Limnology and  
Oceanography  
University of Connecticut Marine Program