



September 19, 2002

The Honorable Richard B. Cheney
President of the Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-0010

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed is a draft bill, entitled the "The Hydrographic Services Amendments Act of 2002", together with a Statement of Purpose and Need and Section-by-Section Analysis. This draft bill provides continuing authority for the modernization of navigation services such as nautical charting, tide and current predictions, and hydrographic, shoreline, and geodetic surveying. These navigation services both provide vital data for mariners, and support many other national needs, including the national spatial data infrastructure and other scientific, engineering, and environmental purposes.

The legislative proposal would reauthorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (HSIA) for five years. The HSIA's authorization of appropriations expired September 30, 2001. Principal objectives of the HSIA are to enhance commerce and improve public safety in the Exclusive Economic Zone by providing mariners with accurate, up-to-date hydrographic, oceanographic, meteorological, and geodetic/positioning data. These data augment U.S. Coast Guard efforts to implement advanced technologies and to support the Nation's marine transportation system.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that enactment of this legislative proposal would be in accord with the program of the President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Theodore W. Kassinger".

Theodore W. Kassinger

Enclosures

Identical Letters Sent to:

The Honorable Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House of
Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6501

The Honorable Richard A. Gephardt
Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6502

The Honorable Tom Daschle
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

The Honorable Trent Lott
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-7010

The Honorable Richard Armey
Majority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6503

The Honorable James V. Hansen
Chairman, Committee on Resources
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6201

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II
Committee on Resources
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6201

The Honorable Ernest F. Hollings
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6125

The Honorable John McCain
Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6125