



June 9, 2005

The Honorable Richard Cheney
President of the Senate
Washington, DC 20510-0010

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed is a draft bill entitled the "Marine Mammal Protection Act Amendments of 2005." Also enclosed is a section-by-section analysis of the proposed bill.

The authorization of appropriations for the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) expired in 1999. The purpose of this draft legislation is to authorize appropriations for the MMPA of 1972 (16 U.S.C. § 1361 et seq.) through Fiscal Year 2010, to amend the definition of harassment to clarify the threshold for whether an activity constitutes harassment, to enhance marine mammal bycatch reduction efforts, to improve the MMPA's enforcement capabilities, to expand the authority of management agreements with Alaska Native Organizations, and to make technical and clarifying amendments to the MMPA. Enactment of this proposed legislation would enhance conservation of marine mammals, strengthen the Federal Government's relations with Native Alaskans, streamline implementation of the MMPA, and make efficient use of Administration resources consistent with the President's budget.

The Administration remains ready to work with the Congress in reauthorizing the MMPA and in resolving any issues that arise as the legislation moves forward. The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this proposal and that its enactment would be in accord with the program of the President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane T. Dana". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jane T. Dana
Acting General Counsel

Enclosures

Identical Letters Sent to:

The Honorable Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House of
Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6501

The Honorable Bill Frist
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1601

The Honorable Tom DeLay
House Majority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6503

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6502

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-7010

The Honorable Richard W. Pombo
Chairman, Committee on Resources
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6201

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Resources
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6201

The Honorable Ted Stevens
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6125

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Co-Chair, Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6125