

Citizen Form Letter. This letter was emailed by 2971 individuals from around the country. Some of the form letters contained separate opening paragraphs which are attached to the letter.

Dear Vice Admiral Lautenbacher,

I strongly oppose the proposed regulatory changes to the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) and urge you not to undertake these changes. The Act has a 30-year record of success in managing the competing uses of our coastal zones. The proposed rule, if enacted, upends the balance of power intended by Congress between federal and state agencies, making it easier for the oil and gas industry to ignore legitimate environmental concerns raised by states and local governments. While the industry asserts these rules will “streamline” the process, I believe the rules do so only in that they limit the states’ voice and role in the process, allowing this Administration to give away my coast to the oil and gas industry. The public and the states should be afforded every right to have a voice in the management of our own coastal areas.

In particular, I object to changes that exempt certain development activities from requiring state review and to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s abdication of authority to the Minerals Management Service with respect to future offshore oil and gas development plans. In addition, many of the proposed review time lines are so short that states will not have the ability to provide public notice and receive comments on proposed projects. The proposed rule also arbitrarily cuts off a state’s ability to ask for information from industry, irrespective of the importance of that information to informed decision-making.

The combined effect of the proposed rule changes is to usurp state’s rights established and strengthened by Congress, NOAA’s own regulations, and three decades of practice, at the expense of our coasts. These rule changes ultimately facilitate coastal oil and gas development without regard for any other use or user of our coasts.

I urge you to withdraw the proposed CZMA rule changes.

Thank you for considering my views.

Opening Paragraphs - The Following Paragraphs were Included in some of the Form Letters:

As a former resident of Maryland and a regular visitor to coastal California, I am well aware of the benefits of local control of coastal zones by states and local jurisdictions under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). I strongly oppose the proposed regulatory changes to CZMA and urge you not to undertake these changes. Right now the oil and gas industries are trying to ride roughshod over many state and local protections in order to exploit resources. If the proposed changes to CZMA go through, citizens' rights, as well as those of the environment, will be totally secondary to the financial benefits a few will reap. This is not right. I do not want this Administration to give away my coast to the oil and gas industry. The public and the states should be afforded every right to have a voice in the management of our own coastal areas.

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Why must we jump like the boy at the dike, putting our fingers into one leak after another? The erosion of our individual voices, worn down by the constant bombardment of an overwhelming, centralized voice is so draining. We need to regulate our own shores! We live here on the coast and know what effects us on a day to day basis, Washington does not. Allow us to regulate our own shores to the greatest benefit of our local population. It is discouraging enough with the current refuse upon our beaches, let alone allow big, polluting industries to invade our waters. To see our eco system change, even by the sonic blasts, has been devastating. Now to have Washington cut up our checks and balances, so that they may profit financially, is too much to handle. I feel as if Washington would like local people to flee into the sea like lemmings.

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America must protect its coastal areas. There must not be changes to upset the balance of nature in the coastal areas. Oil, gas or logging companies must not ever gain footholds at our America's coastal areas, either. These proposals will make it easy to gain access to them.

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I am very disappointed at the environmental record which has been set by this administration. We need to protect all areas of our environment instead of destroying them as they seem to be trying to do.

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We need cleaner oceans, coasts, seas, air and water. Marine and wildlife and forests need protection from careless predatory man.

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Dear Fellow American. When do we have enough of an impact on our world? When is our footprint large enough? Shouldn't we err on the side of caution than continue with our slash and burn cultural way of life?

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Hasn't the lesson been learn that of protecting our coast lines and thereby oceans is one of the paramount actions that must not only be of protection, but of enforcement? Those who want to "Streamline" the

process are only interested in one thing, profit with no cost to themselves. Let the public pay for the damages.

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It seems that the Bush administration is once again on the attack and attempting to diminish the rights of the states to protect their coasts. It seems that once again the special interests of oil and gas are attempting to do away with environmental protections and make waste of our coasts.

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It is a strong foundation of our nation that our states have the ability to protect their citizens and that their citizens have the ability to legislate on the state level. Unfortunately I feel that this right is being infringed on by proposed changes under the veil of reform to streamline governmental over-site but that will in reality destroy almost all effective governmental over-site.

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As a former member of the Governor's office of a coastal state, I have seen first hand how popular and important the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) is to the people covered by it. What I saw was that people of all political persuasions want to have a voice when matters of such magnitude are being decided.

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I strongly support making regulatory changes to the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) which will strengthen it. I urge you to undertake these changes as there is a vital link between healthy coasts and a healthy U.S. economy.

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When I cast my vote for Pres. Bush in the last election, I thought it was because he supported States rights over a massive Federal government. Although I disagreed with many of his policies and motives, I was sure that he was at least sincere about leaving big government out. That, I thought, was a way to insure certain protections for my state of Vermont and other smart states. Now it turns out that he's a total hypocrite and wants the Feds to completely streamline the process according to his Administration's antiquated and dangerous ideas of what constitutes progress. This country is dying friend, in many ways, including physically, as our once life-giving ecology can no longer tolerate the abuse it takes in the name of industry. There are other ways to promote industry, but there is only one original American system of natural resources.

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Here we go again! Another Bush attempt to weaken yet another environmental law/act. This is another cockamamy big business in mind proposal. Beaches, shores and ocean that belong to the states should stay in control of the states. We do not need the federal government interfering with our state decisions. No top-down decision making, especially from an administration that does not have anything in mind except for kowtowing to big business and industry.

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As an avid kayaker and observer of coastal wildlife, I am intimately aware of the rich biodiversity of coastal areas, the intricate balance of this diverse life, and its clear, essential connection to the overall health of our environment as well as to our economic well-being -- not to mention its priceless, spectacular and irretrievable beauty.

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It surprises me that although President Bush says he wishes to transfer environmental protection to the states, his administration is now seeking to remove the power of the states to do so in regard to coastal areas.

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A hundred years ago Teddy Roosevelt said 'vile is the man who uses our(USAs) natural resources for his own profit' or something very close to that. How times have changed.

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In Broward county on the Dania Cut-off canal SFWMD ignored all biologist reports in granting a permit to build docks on the Dania cut-Off Canal this builder has been caught dredging w/o a permit by the ACOE but nothing is ever done he thinks he can do whatever he wants and not be held accountable I am fed up with the govt and all the agencies involved in this process. I have already spent \$27,000 to a lawyer because this guy wants to take away my water rights. the whole system needs a good look at it!!

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Grandma and Grandpa:

We come from the earth. Whether we admit it or not, we return to it. Do you want to go down in history, as another who acquiesced to special interests of corporations and ignored the interests of your own grandkids generation? If you relax, rollback, or in any way interfere with regulations and oversight which is supposed to protect these areas and those folks that live around them: you will be remembered as one who was on a mission to protect corporations and expose the people to the poisons of greed. Everywhere you see this Creed of Greed. It came in the 20's and its having a real renaissance lately, especially in the past 30 years. How do you want to be remembered? As one who went for the long-term decision that even just feels right? Or the one who sold out future generations lives and quality of resources available to cash in during your own life? This, as with all decisions, directly begins to create the exact same intentions as your expectations. Do the right thing. Search your heart. Pray on it, wake up in the mornin' before starting your day and see what both your prayer and heart tell you. Then, act in the best interest of all those whose lives you affect: NOT just your own! This is known as being an Ally of Humanity, not an enemy of it. You decide, we're watching, in increasing numbers, and believe me: voting too. Wakeup, its 2003 Grandpa.

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My personal note to a form letter. You know having a brother that is governor of Florida that our coast lines are not only a natural resource but a way of life. Please call Jeb and ask him what he thinks would happen in Florida to the beauty he and his family adopted and the economy if the coast lines are destroyed. I grew up swimming and participating in water sports in the rivers and lakes of Florida but now can't allow my grandchildren to do the same. The only place I can share with them is the Atlantic

and the Gulf of Mexico. You being from Texas with it's miles of coast line should understand.

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This Administration is fighting its own War against the Environment. Their propaganda is appalling and the initiatives they propose would be horrendous. The folly/ tragedy of the occupation in Iraq becomes more apparent every day. President Bush and his Cabinet have no vision for this country and are doing everything possible to undermine much needed protections and reforms. I am sick of it and fearful of the potential Mass Destruction that will ensue if their strategies are not scrutinized and exposed.

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