

Subject: Coastal Zone Management Act  
Resent-From: CZMAFC.ProposedRule@noaa.gov  
Date: 17 Aug 2003 02:37:58 -0000  
From: <ckunkel@princeton.edu>  
To: czmafc.proposedrule@noaa.gov

Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher

Dear Vice Admiral Lautenbacher,

I oppose the Bush Administration's intent to weaken the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). The CZMA facilitates a unique partnership between coastal states and the federal government to provide thoughtful management between the competing uses of our coastal zones. The Act encourages coastal states to develop coastal management plans unique to each state and in accordance with federal guidelines. These management plans are an important component of states' ability to protect and regulate the use of their diverse coastal environments. However, the Bush Administration, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is attempting to short-circuit the consistency regulations and weaken the states' role in the partnership. The proposed rule changes would exempt certain development activities from requiring state review; many proposed review timelines would be so short that states would not have time to adequately solicit public comments. 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.

Coasts and beaches are some of America's most treasured lands. Local governments and people have a large economic and personal stake in their management and they should be afforded every opportunity to have a voice in their management. I support states' ability to protect their coastal resources through the state and federal partnership now contained within the CZMA. The proposed changes would facilitate coastal oil and gas development at the expense of other coastal uses. Please withdraw the proposed changes.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Cathy Kunkel  
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