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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

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**Support the Flores Amendment to Prevent
New Layers of Federal Bureaucracy**

May 8, 2012

Dear Colleague,

This week the House will vote on [H.R. 5326](#), *making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes.*

As part of House Republicans effort to combat unnecessary spending and burdensome federal regulations, Representative Flores (TX-17) is sponsoring an amendment to prohibit funding for the implementation of President Obama's National Ocean Policy.

Created by Executive Order, the initiative calls for mandatory ocean zoning, a policy that effectively allows the federal government to determine where certain activities can take place in our oceans and along our shores. If implemented, the National Ocean Policy will add layer upon layer of new, federal bureaucracy, creating uncertainty for businesses and job creators and opening up the floodgates for frivolous lawsuits.

The new Federally-controlled system of regional planning bodies will have broad authority to issue regulations potentially impacting all activities that occur on lands adjacent to rivers, tributaries or watersheds that eventually drain into the ocean. Therefore, the heavy hand of the National Ocean Policy could reach far inland, inflicting damage across a spectrum of sectors including agriculture, fishing, construction, manufacturing, mining, oil and natural gas, and renewable energy, among others. These industries support tens of millions of jobs and contribute trillions of dollars to the U.S. economy.

Just last month over [80 groups](#) representing these sectors including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, American Farm Bureau Federation, National Association of Homebuilders, American Forest & Paper Association, National Fisheries Institute and Recreational Fishing Alliance sent a letter to appropriators asking for an amendment to prohibit funding for the National Ocean Policy. The Flores amendment will accomplish this goal and allow Congress to hit the pause button on funding until the true job and economic impacts of this policy are known.

I strongly encourage you to support the Flores Amendment to H.R. 5326. Please contact Dave Whaley (dave.whaley@mail.house.gov) with the Natural Resources Committee at 6-0200 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Doc Hastings
Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee

“Therefore, we ask that the Appropriations Committee include language in all Fiscal Year 2013 appropriation bills prohibiting the use of funds to implement the National Ocean Policy.”

Agriculture:

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
CropLife America
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Cattlemen’s Beef Association
National Onion Association
The Fertilizer Institute

Fisheries:

Alaska Crab Coalition
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association
American Alliance of Fishermen and their
Communities
At-sea Processors Association
California Wetfish Producers Association
Charterboats of VA
Connecticut Commercial Lobstermen’s Association
Crab Group of Independent Harvesters
Destin Charter Boat Association
Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen’s Association
Freezer Longline Coalition
Garden State Seafood Association (NJ)
Grand Strand Fishing Alliance
Long Island Commercial Fishing Association
Mexico Beach Charters
Montauk Inlet Seafood
National Association of Charterboat Operators
National Fisheries Institute
New Bedford Seafood Coalition
New York Sportfishing Federation
Organized Fishermen of Florida
Pacific Seafood Processors Association
Panama City Boatmen Association
Recreational Fishing Alliance
Recreational Fishing Alliance-Forgotten Coast Chapter
Recreational Fishing Alliance - Georgia Chapter
Recreational Fishing Alliance, Oregon Chapter
Recreational Fishing Alliance - South Carolina Chapter
Southeast Alaska Fishermen’s Alliance
Southeastern Fisheries Association (Florida)
Southern Kingfish Association, LLC
Southern New England Fishermen’s and Lobstermen’s
Association, Inc
Southern Offshore Fishing Association (FL)
The Crab Group of Independent Harvesters
United Catcher Boats
United Fishermen of Alaska
Virginia Charter Boat Association
West Coast Seafood Processors Association

Oil/gas:

Alaska Oil and Gas Association
American Petroleum Institute
Independent Petroleum Association of America
International Association of Drilling Contractors
International Association of Geophysical Contractors
Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association
National Ocean Industries Association
Northern Gas Pipelines
Offshore Marine Services Association
US Oil and Gas Association

Energy:

Consumer Energy Alliance
Institute for 21st Century Energy
Shallow Water Energy Security Coalition
Western Energy Alliance

Mining:

Alaska Miners Association
Northwest Mining Association
Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration

Timber:

American Forest & Paper Association
American Loggers Council
Forest Landowners Association

Misc:

60 Plus Association
Alaska State Chamber of Commerce
Alaska Support Industry Alliance
Diving Equipment and Marketing Association
Gulf Economic Survival Team
Hispanic Leadership Fund
LA 1 Coalition
Louisiana Trade Consultants
National Association of Home Builders
National Ocean Policy Coalition
Offshore Mariners Wives Association
Public Lands Council
Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Western Business Roundtable