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

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JEFFREY DUNCAN
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

Farm Bureau Supports Flores Amendment to CJS; Says Ocean Policy Could Reach Every Farm and Ranch in the United States

May 9, 2012

Dear Colleague,

Today, the House continues consideration of 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) will sponsor an amendment to prohibit funding for the implementation of President Obama's National Ocean Policy.

The Administration and other supporters of this initiative would have you believe it is nothing more than a sort of "air traffic control" for coastal and marine activities. Let me be clear -- this is simply not true.

I wanted to draw your attention to a [letter](#) circulated by the American Farm Bureau Federation just yesterday highlighting their concerns over the Policy's inland reach and negative impact on agricultural activities. According to the Farm Bureau's experts, "the National Ocean Policy could extend to the regulation of every farm and ranch in the United States." This is a far cry from the policy that is being portrayed as simply coordinating coastal and marine activities.

I strongly encourage you read the [letter](#) and 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



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May 8, 2012

The Honorable
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. :

This week, the House will consider the Fiscal Year 2013 Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Bill. Rep. Bill Flores (R-Texas) is expected to offer an amendment that would prohibit any of the funds appropriated by this bill from being used to implement the National Ocean Policy established by Executive Order No. 13547. The American Farm Bureau Federation urges you to support the Flores amendment.

The National Ocean Policy is fraught with uncertainty. Despite claiming to be limited to oceans, coasts and the Great Lakes region, one of the Draft Implementation Plan's priority objectives is "to enhance water quality in the ocean, along our coasts, and in the Great Lakes by promoting and implementing sustainable practices on land" (emphasis added). One of the action items to implement this priority is to "reduce rural sources of excessive nutrients, sediments, toxins and pathogens," which includes regulation of air and water emissions. Thus, instead of being limited to oceans and coasts, the National Ocean Policy could extend to the regulation of every farm and ranch in the United States. Farm Bureau is very concerned that such regulation, which duplicates both the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act, is being implemented by Executive Order.

The National Ocean Policy will also create a new federal bureaucracy of regional planning authorities to develop regulatory planning mechanisms to govern ocean use. In these challenging fiscal times, it is inappropriate to spend significant amounts of money for new federal bureaucracies while established programs are having funding reduced.

Until America's farmers and ranchers, the American public, and Congress can get answers to basic questions, such as the scope and economic impact of this potentially overreaching policy, Farm Bureau urges that Congress delay its implementation. This can be accomplished by adoption of the Flores amendment.

Farm Bureau urges you to support the Flores amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Stallman'.

Bob Stallman
President