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June 25, 2012

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lynn Woolsey  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2263 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Boxer and Congresswoman Woolsey:

On behalf of Governor Brown, I write to offer California's support for achieving the goals of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act of 2011 (S. 179 and H.R. 192). This bill would expand the existing marine sanctuaries by over 2,000 square nautical miles.

Both the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS) were established in the 1980s to protect and preserve California's extraordinary marine environment and wildlife. Centered along an important upwelling area, the sanctuaries are able to support important commercial and recreational fisheries, tourism and recreation industries, and coastal economies and communities.

The sanctuaries contribute greatly to ocean and coastal management by engaging in public outreach and education to promote stewardship, conducting scientific and applied research initiatives, and developing and supporting programs that strengthen resource protection for the long-term health of the region. Improving management to strengthen the protections of these critical ecosystems within the Sanctuaries will help to ensure a clean and safe environment for healthy fish stocks to thrive, keeping fisherman and tour operators on the water.

The state of California is proud of its strong partnership with the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries in managing the unique and special areas known as National Marine Sanctuaries off the coast of California. The NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has been invaluable in reaching out and educating our coastal communities and visitors about the importance of a healthy ocean in our lives. By promoting sustainable use and stewardship, minimizing user conflicts, and connecting the public to their ocean resources, the sanctuaries hope to bolster vibrant, prosperous, and well-informed local communities.

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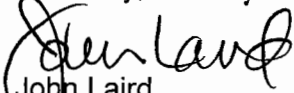
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I am proud to join others in supporting this proposed legislation, including members of Congress and the California State Legislature; the California Coastal Commission, the California State Lands Commission; many local governments and elected officials; leadership from fishing interests; local chambers of commerce and business groups; national and local environmental groups; and prominent marine scientists.

Thank you for introducing the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act of 2011 and for your continued leadership on critical ocean issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Laird". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John Laird  
Secretary for Natural Resources