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Ocean Champions Announces Second Wave of Political Endorsement

Established Members of Congress Are Key To Future Healthy Oceans Legislation

August 12, 2008, Capitola CA – In time for the summer recess, Ocean Champions released its second wave of endorsements. As Congressional candidates head to their home districts to campaign, seven more members of Congress have earned the support of the only political voice for the oceans.

This second wave of endorsements is made up of established members of Congress who are key to future healthy oceans legislation, but who are new to Ocean Champions. "As we've established relationships with these members over the last two years, we've seen up close their commitment to the things we care about – healthy oceans and a Congress committed to ocean protection," said David Wilmot, PhD, President and Co-founder of Ocean Champions.

In addition to being strong supporters of healthy oceans, all these candidates hold key committee assignments and/or leadership posts. Ocean Champions strategy for endorsements is driven by a thorough understanding of effective measures for passing legislation for ocean protection. "If we are going to pass visionary legislation like OCEANS-21, we're going to need the active support of these champions, as well as many others," said Jack Sterne, Co-founder of Ocean Champions.

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The candidates on this endorsement list are Democrats and Republicans and represent districts from Guam to the Great Lakes. Ocean Champions is endorsing in the U.S. House: Del. Madeline Bordallo (D-GU), Rep. Allen Boyd (D-FL), Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL), and Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) and in the U.S. Senate, Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI). Ocean Champions will release its third set of endorsements later this month.

Ocean Champions is the only nonprofit political organization that endorses pro-ocean Congressional candidates and lobbies members of Congress on behalf of the oceans. To learn more about Ocean Champions or any of the candidates endorsed by Ocean Champions, visit www.oceanchampions.org.

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