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Ocean Champions Announces First Wave of Political Endorsement

Initial Endorsements Feature Candidates With Record of Healthy Ocean Policy

July 17, 2008, Capitola, CA - Today, the national political organization, Ocean Champions, unveiled its first of three waves of congressional endorsements for the 2008 election. The initial list of nine members all share a commitment to protecting the oceans, and to working with Ocean Champions to make ocean health a top priority in the U.S. Congress.

The first wave, characterized by Co-Founder Jack Sterne as "old friends who continue to do good things in Congress", features endorsements for both the House of Representatives and the Senate. These endorsements are carefully scrutinized by both the Board of Directors of Ocean Champions and their community. Each candidate has a record of promoting healthy ocean policy. "With the impending threat of offshore oil drilling, increased frequency of beach closures, and rising ocean temperatures, the time has never been more important to continue to build a cadre of elected officials in Congress who will lead the charge to ensure healthy oceans for our nation", said David Wilmot, PhD, President and Co-founder of Ocean Champions. Ultimately, the aim is to

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create a political environment where protecting and restoring the oceans is placed at a higher priority for both State and Federal governments.

The candidates on this first endorsement list are all from coastal states and proven advocates for ocean health. Ocean Champions is endorsing in the U.S. House: Rep. John Barrow (D-Ga.), Rep. Lois Capps (D-Ca.), Rep. Kathy Castor (D-Fl.), Rep. Sam Farr (D-Ca.), Rep. Connie Mack (R-Fl.), Rep. Ed Markey (D-Ma.), Rep. Hilda Solis (D-Ca.), Rep. Chris Shays (R-Ct.) and in the U. S. Senate: Rep. Tom Allen (D-Me.). Ocean Champions will release two more lists of endorsements in the next two months.

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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