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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Ocean Champions Endorses Frank Kratovil For Reelection to Maryland's First District Seat in the House *Congressman has proven his commitment to the Chesapeake*

Washington, D.C. – April 6, 2010 – Ocean Champions, which works to build political power for the oceans by helping to elect pro-ocean candidates for the U.S. Congress is proud to announce its endorsement of incumbent Frank Kratovil for Maryland's first district seat in the House of Representatives.

"In his first term, Congressman Kratovil took decisive action to support ocean and Chesapeake Bay health. He was an original cosponsor and leader on the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act, which just passed the House. This bill will address the dead zones and frequent fish kills in the Bay that harm important fisheries," said David Wilmot, Ph.D., Ocean Champions' President and Co-Founder. "Mr. Kratovil knows that the Chesapeake provides critical habitat for many fisheries, and that a healthy Bay protects fish and fishing jobs, and helps Maryland watermen continue their great tradition."

In contrast, his opponent Andy Harris has compiled one of the worst records on the Chesapeake Bay in the Maryland Senate. His LCV lifetime score of 13% includes recent votes against reducing stormwater pollution and reducing nitrogen runoff. He also voted in favor of delaying the ban on phosphorus in detergent. Stormwater runoff, nitrogen and phosphorus are all major contributors to the dead zones and general water quality problems plaguing the Chesapeake Bay.

Congressman Kratovil is an independent voice who works hard for the diverse interests of his constituents. He is fiscally conservative but understands that an investment in Bay health is an investment in Maryland's economic future. Likewise, he supported the Waxman-Markey Climate bill because he knew it was the right thing to do, and he recognized its benefit to the waterfront and agricultural communities in his district and to the state's alternative energy businesses. Ocean Champions enthusiastically supports Congressman Kratovil because we believe he is the best candidate for the ocean, for the Chesapeake Bay, and for Maryland's first district.

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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