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N E W S R E L E A S E

**For Details, Contact:** Mike Dunmyer, Executive Director  
Phone: 703-533-7571 Fax: 703-229-4103  
Email: [mike@oceanchampions.org](mailto:mike@oceanchampions.org)

## Ocean Champions Endorses Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA) *Anti-Drilling Crusader Protects California's Coasts*

Washington, D.C. – July 21, 2010 – Ocean Champions, which works to build political power for the oceans by helping to elect pro-ocean candidates to the U.S. Congress is proud to announce its endorsement of Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA).

"As a California native who grew up playing around the Monterey Bay and its beaches, Congressman Garamendi understands how important healthy coastal ecosystems are," said David Wilmot, Ph.D., Ocean Champions' President and Co-Founder. "He has a long history of successfully opposing offshore drilling, and works tirelessly to protect California's coasts."

Congressman Garamendi is a California native, having grown up in the foothills. He spent a lot of time playing along the beaches of the Monterey Bay, and that coastline is still a big part of his family's life. His passion for ocean conservation starts with this deep personal connection and is evident in his words and actions.

Congressman Garamendi was pleased to be recognized for his efforts, saying, "I am honored and delighted to receive the endorsement of Ocean Champions. Like Ocean Champions, I am committed to protecting our oceans. As Lt. Governor of California and Chairman of the State Lands Commission, I led the fights to stop the development of an LNG terminal off the Malibu coast and a new oil drilling lease in Santa Barbara County. The Ocean Protection Council was created with my help to force reductions in the plastic wastes that foul the beaches and oceans. My determination to protect oceans continues in Congress with my introduction of the West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2010 — a bill that will stop all new federal oil and gas leases off the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington. I look forward to continue working with Ocean Champions to protect our oceans."

In his short tenure in the House, Congressman Garamendi has already shown himself to be a leader on ocean issues, and we're confident that his record here will continue to grow. This commitment to healthy oceans, along with his ability, breadth of knowledge and true understanding of his constituents make him the best choice for California's 10<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.oceanchampions.org).*