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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

Ocean Champions Endorses Congressman Paul Hodes for Senate

Congressman Passionate About Ocean Conservation

Washington, D.C. – June 22, 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 Paul Hodes (D-NH) for Senate.

"Congressman Hodes has a deep, personal connection to the ocean and is a strong environmentalist. As a New Hampshire resident, he has seen the long term problems caused by acid rain," said David Wilmot, Ph.D., Ocean Champions' President and Co-Founder. "Now, with greenhouse gases acidifying the oceans, he's committed to a new energy future that reduces our reliance on fossil fuels."

As Congressman, Mr. Hodes has championed alternative energy development, seeing it as critical for the environment and the economy. He voted for the Waxman-Markey Climate bill, touting its ability to end our dependence on foreign oil, create thousands of green jobs for New Hampshire, and significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions. He also pushed for and passed legislation to make tax credits available for residential biomass heating systems and is working to expand it to cover schools. This is just a piece of his overall commitment to conservation. His outstanding record on all environmental issues is evident in his perfect lifetime LCV score (100%).

Congressman Hodes has also led and supported important ocean legislation. In the 111th Congress, he cosponsored the landmark Ocean Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act (a.k.a. Oceans 21), along with bills to improve coastal water quality, reduce mercury pollution and help threatened sea otters recover. He helped pass the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia bill, and the Omnibus Public Lands Act, which included several important ocean bills, including one to monitor and study ocean acidification.

Congressman Hodes stated, "I am honored to accept the endorsement of Oceans Champions. With 18 miles of coastline in New Hampshire, we must do everything we can to preserve it for future generations. New Hampshire's coastline is critical to our economy and to the state's tourism. In the U.S. Senate, I will always stand up for preserving New Hampshire's environment for years to come."

Congressman Hodes has proven himself to be an independent thinker, always striving to do what is best for the citizens of New Hampshire. His commitment to their priorities, which include clean air and healthy oceans, make him the best candidate to represent the New Hampshire in the U.S. Senate.

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.