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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Ocean Champions Endorses Robert O'Leary for Massachusetts' 10th Congressional District *State Senator Sponsored the Landmark Massachusetts Ocean Act*

Washington, D.C. – September 7th, 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 State Senator Robert O'Leary to represent Massachusetts' 10th district in the House of Representatives.

"The Massachusetts Ocean Act broke new ground in ocean planning and management at the state level and sets the example for what can be done nationally," said David Wilmot, Ph.D., Ocean Champions' President and Co-Founder. "As a State Senator, Robert O'Leary's leadership and tireless commitment delivered this victory, and showed why we need this ocean champion in the U.S. Congress."

Mr. O'Leary was the author and sponsor of The Massachusetts Oceans Act, which mandated an ocean management plan that balances and protects the natural, social, cultural, and economic interests of the marine ecosystem through integrated management, while protecting biodiversity and ecosystem health. The plan supports sustainable use of marine resources, including renewable energy, and incorporates new knowledge as the basis for management that adapts to address changing conditions.

The Ocean Act is indicative of Mr. O'Leary's work as a State Senator, where he has consistently connected environmental conservation with economic stability, believing that healthy oceans and thriving fisheries will protect maritime jobs now and in the future. In addition, he sees renewable energy development and curbing greenhouse gas emissions as critical for national security and economic growth as well as for environmental health.

"Our oceans are one of our greatest national resources and protecting and preserving them is of the utmost importance to me. Good environmental policy has to have a strong component of ocean protection and I have worked very hard to promote the best policies possible." said Robert O'Leary. "I am so proud to have my efforts recognized by receiving the endorsement from the Ocean Champions and I look forward to continuing our environmental stewardship together."

Unlike his Primary opponent, Mr. O'Leary has lived in district for 34 years. His commitment to his constituents can be seen through his long tenure in local government, and his continued service as an educator. He helped deliver a \$250 million federal education grant, backing up his belief that investments in education are the key to jobs and economic diversity from Boston to Cape Cod. Robert O'Leary is a true champion for MA-10 and for the oceans.

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.