



For Release: May 11, 2010

N E W S R E L E A S E

For Details, Contact: Mike Dunmyer, Executive Director
Phone: 571-970-6827 Fax: 703-229-4103
Email: mike@oceanchampions.org

Ocean Champions Endorses Three Crusaders Against Expanded Offshore Oil Drilling *Representatives Markey, Pallone and Holt Envision a Clean Energy Future*

Washington, D.C. – May 11, 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 Congressmen Markey (D-MA), Pallone (D-NJ) and Holt (D-NJ).

"BP's catastrophe in the Gulf demonstrates that offshore oil drilling will never be safe, and that a single event can have devastating results," said David Wilmot, Ph.D., Ocean Champions' President and Co-Founder. "We are proud that Ocean Champions has helped elect many in Congress who are leading the fight against expanded offshore oil drilling. Our challenge this year is to make sure all of them return to Congress, including these three, who are aggressively pursuing solutions to address today's crisis and prevent tomorrow's."

In recent days, Congressmen Pallone and Holt have formed a powerful one-two punch against Big Oil. Congressman Pallone introduced a ban on any new drilling in U.S. waters, while Congressman Holt introduced a bill to hold oil companies fully accountable for spill costs by raising their liability cap from \$75 million to \$10 billion. Two weeks before BP's Deepwater Horizon blowout, both lawmakers joined with others in the New Jersey delegation to author a letter to Interior Secretary Salazar opposing the Administration's decision to expand offshore oil drilling. The letter instead calls for developing clean offshore solutions such as wind and wave energy.

Congressman Markey has consistently fought against expanded offshore drilling, pressing for improved efficiency and development of renewable energy as the best approach to ending our dependence on foreign oil. As Chairman of the Energy and Environment Subcommittee, he's leading the charge to expose Big Oil's inadequate offshore drilling safety practices. In addition, Congressman Markey's ability to lead his Climate bill to passage clearly shows his commitment to replacing offshore drilling with safe, renewable energy. By reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the Waxman-Markey climate bill will also address ocean acidification, which threatens a broad range of marine species.

Elections will play a major role in deciding the national debate over our long-term energy strategy. For those interested in ending our dependence on foreign oil AND mitigating future offshore oil spill nightmares, sending Congressmen Markey, Pallone and Holt back to Washington is an important step.

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.