

January 18, 2017

Dear President-elect Trump,

We write to express our support for the regional ocean planning processes working within our states and regions, which are helping to meet our industries' needs for effective ocean management.

Regional ocean planning has many elements that benefit our states, regions, and industries. One key driver of our interest in the ocean plans is information and data, collected and synthesized in partnership with us and included in the regional ocean data portals, that identifies industry ocean uses, industry needs, and future industry trends. Until now agencies have not had simple access to this kind of industry data, which helps them make more informed economic decisions. Commitments among states, tribes, fishery management councils, and federal agencies to improve efficiency in permitting and decision-making by facilitating early identification of potential conflicts and strengthening engagement with businesses are equally important to our industries.

The ocean is a major driver of the U.S. economy through shipping, fishing, ports and maritime, and recreation that contribute over \$359 billion to the GDP and more than 26 million jobs, as well as new opportunities like offshore renewables that are poised to contribute significantly to our nation's economy and job growth. It is important to our industries that our ocean economy not only sustains, but thrives. We request the new administration support the continued development of regional ocean plans and the important work our industries have put forward as part of that process. We seek the administration's support of the data and information generated by these processes, helping inform management decisions that support our industries. Lastly, we urge the continued active engagement of relevant federal agencies in working with our industries on the implementation of our future economic vision outlined as part of these collaborative management plans.

Sincerely,

Bill Silkes
American Mussel Harvesters

Bud Darr
Cruise Lines International Association

Richard Fredericks
American Salvage Association

Stephanie McClellan
Delaware Offshore Wind Initiative

Tom Kiernan
American Wind Energy Association

Captain Stephen Roberts
Delaware Pilot

Liz Burdock
Business Network for Offshore Wind

Capt. J Stuart Griffin
Mariner's Advisory Committee for the Bay and River Delaware

Phil Cruver
Catalina Sea Ranch

Robert Rheault
East Coast Shellfish Grower's Association

Kathy Metcalf
Chamber of Shipping of America

Gary Gysin
Liquid Robotics

Chris Mayo
Maine Harbormaster's Association

Susan Zellers
Maryland Marine Trades Association

Richard Nelson
Maine Lobstermen's Association

Jason Kelly
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Carolyn Belmore
National Boating Federation

Carleen Lyden-Kluss
North American Marine Environment Protection
Association

Capt. Sean Bogus
Northeast Marine Pilots Association

Jason Busch
Oregon Wave Energy Trust

Capt. Mark Klopp
Portland Pilots Association

Kevin Bannister
Principle Power

William Staby
Resolute Marine

Bill McElroy
Rhode Island Lobstermen's Association

Rick Bellevance
Rhode Island Charter Boat Association

Wendy Mackie
Rhode Island Marine Trades Association

Tom Raftican
Sportfishing Conservancy

Michael Jones
The Maritime Alliance

Brett Fitzgerald
The Snook & Gamefish Foundation