

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 8, 2009

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski and Senator Shelby:

We are writing to respectfully request that you include \$5 million in the Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations bill to support on-the-ground actions for the *West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health*.

In September 2006, Oregon Governor Kulongoski, California Governor Schwarzenegger, and Washington Governor Gregoire signed the *West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health*, demonstrating their commitment to protecting the health of marine ecosystems and the economies that depend on them. The collaborative agreement seeks to advance the following goals for the West Coast:

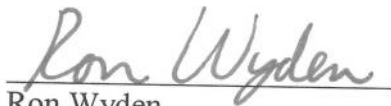
- Ensuring clean coastal waters and beaches;
- Protecting and restoring healthy ocean and coastal habitats;
- Promoting the effective implementation of ecosystem-based management of our ocean and coastal resources;
- Reducing adverse impacts of offshore development;
- Increasing ocean awareness and literacy among our residents;
- Expanding ocean and coastal scientific information, research, and monitoring; and
- Fostering sustainable economic development throughout our diverse coastal communities.

The *West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health* advances regional ocean governance efforts as called for in the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. As the governors' Action Plan highlights, accomplishing the responsibilities in the Action Plan will require successful collaborative effort and sharing of resources between the three states and the federal government.

Priorities in the tri-state ocean Action Plan include maintaining healthy communities, protecting marine habitats and estuaries, and increasing marine technology and research. Achievement of the actions in the Action Plan will among other things result in cleaner coastal waters, reductions of invasive species, increased marine scientific knowledge, and healthier ports and coastal communities. While the activities will be focused on the ocean and coast, the benefits will extend into the interior of each state, because sound ocean and coastal management supports tourism, recreation, port operations, and other commerce activities that support the West Coast's economies.

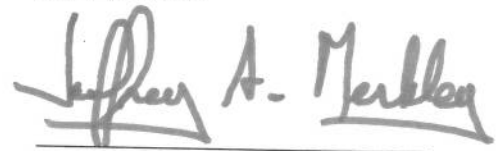
We urge you to sustain this forward looking federal-state partnership by providing the requested \$5 million to support the implementation of the Action Plan for the *West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health* in Fiscal Year 2010.

Sincerely,


Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator


Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senator


Barbara Boxer
U.S. Senator


Jeff Merkley
U.S. Senator