

The Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2007

Dear Chairwoman Bordallo:

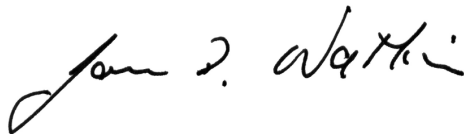
We are writing to thank you for inviting us to testify before your Subcommittee on the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission. We greatly appreciate your attention to these issues. Your leadership in ocean policy reform will be critical to successfully restoring and preserving the health of our oceans and coasts and the economies that depend on them.

As is made clear in the reports of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, the Pew Oceans Commission, and now the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, our nation must move toward ecosystem-based management, balancing the long-term health and sustainability of the ecosystem while also supporting economic prosperity. Doing so will require our nation's leaders to take action to reform ocean governance, enhance the role of science in making management decisions, increase our commitment to education, and adequately fund ocean and coastal programs.

By scheduling this hearing, you are beginning the process of addressing critical issues and demonstrating that Congress is serious about restoring the vitality of our oceans. Under your leadership the 110th Congress is staged to realize significant legislative accomplishments addressing our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. We are pleased to see that this year your Subcommittee has already made progress on the Coral Reef Conservation Amendments Act of 2007 and that you plan to move aggressively on other ocean-related legislation.

Thank you again for your commitment to our oceans and for your earnest consideration of the recommendations of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative. We look forward to continuing to work closely with you and your staff on the crucial work ahead.

Sincerely,



James D. Watkins
Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)
Chairman, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy



The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Chair, Pew Oceans Commission

CC: The Honorable Nick J. Rahall
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources