



June 22, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, United States Capitol
Washington DC, 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

Our ocean is a source of solutions and hope when it comes to addressing climate change. The undersigned businesses and organizations are writing to express our strong support for ocean climate action and the inclusion of ocean-based solutions in any larger climate legislation.

Major scientific reports such as the [Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere](#) and the [High Level Panel Report on a Sustainable Ocean Economy](#) have shown us not just the devastating toll climate change has had on the ocean, but also the incredible role it has to play as a source of climate solutions with the potential to provide a [fifth](#) of the greenhouse gas emission reductions needed globally to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C.

Support for ocean climate action is at an all time high. Since January, the Biden Administration has made impressive progress on ocean climate action, through promoting ocean-based renewable energy; pausing offshore oil and gas leasing for a rigorous review; prioritizing environmental justice in ocean and climate decision making; advocating for investments in coastal restoration and resilience; and supporting ocean sanctuaries for fish and wildlife to thrive in a changing climate.

Now, Congress has the opportunity to act and turn the vision for ocean climate action into durable solutions. The Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2021 (H.R. 3764), led by House Natural Resources Committee Chair Raúl Grijalva, will codify many of the proposals made by the Biden Administration, and includes many other innovative provisions to leverage the power of the ocean to address climate change. By implementing a full suite of ocean-based climate solutions, the legislation would bolster frontline communities, increase the resilience of ocean

ecosystems, and demonstrate much-needed leadership in the global effort to address the climate crisis.

Specifically, the Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2021 will:

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions by supporting the transition to a clean energy economy through promoting ocean-based renewable energy. The bill also prohibits oil and gas development activities in most areas of the Outer Continental Shelf.

Increase Carbon Storage in Blue Carbon Ecosystems by capitalizing on the carbon storage potential and other co-benefits provided by “blue carbon” ecosystems like salt marshes, sea grasses, and mangroves. These ecosystems absorb carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and safely store it at a rate of up to four times that of forests on land. They also protect coastal communities by limiting the impacts of coastal erosion, flooding, and storms—all while providing habitat for marine wildlife and fisheries.

Promote Coastal Resiliency to protect our coasts and communities from the climate impacts we can’t avoid; mandate the establishment of a strategic task force to coordinate federal efforts around voluntary relocation; and recognize and support tribal and Indigenous knowledge and expertise. It also authorizes a \$10 billion investment in coastal restoration and resilience that is a win-win-win for our economy, our frontline communities, and our environment.

Improve Ocean Protection by supporting the Biden Administration’s goal to protect at least 30% of our ocean by 2030. Marine protected areas, like our protected areas on land, are a key tool for protecting biodiversity, which is more critical than ever in the face of the nature and climate crises.

Support Climate-Ready Fisheries by encouraging the development and implementation of strategies to improve the management of fisheries in a changing climate. The bill will help to promote U.S. seafood sourced from environmentally and climate-friendly fisheries and eliminate fishing subsidies in trade agreements for countries that contribute to overfishing or illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

Tackle the Ocean and Human Health Challenges of ocean acidification and harmful algal blooms and the impacts of plastic pollution by establishing a manufacturers fee on virgin single-use plastic production.

The Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2021 would bolster frontline communities most at risk from climate change; increase the resilience of ocean ecosystems; and help demonstrate much-needed leadership in the global effort to address the climate crisis. We urge you to act quickly to implement the measures detailed in this legislation--before it's too late.

Signed,

350 Maine	EarthEcho International
Acadia Center	Endangered Species Coalition
AFGE Local 704	Environment America
Alaska Wilderness League	Environmental Action Committee of West
ALRAS Digital	Marin
American Littoral Society	Environment California
Audubon Delta	Environment Connecticut
Audubon Florida	Environment Florida
Audubon Great Lakes	Environment Georgia
Audubon New York	Environment Maine
Audubon Society of Lincoln City	Environment Massachusetts
Audubon South Carolina	Environment New Jersey
Audubon Washington	Environment North Carolina
Azul	Environment Oregon
Bay Area Youth Climate Summit	Environment Texas
Blue Frontier	Environment Virginia
California League of Conservation Voters	Environment Washington
Californians for Western Wilderness	Environmental Defense Center
Center for American Progress	Environmental Law & Policy Center
Center for the Blue Economy	Environmental League of MA
Cetacean Society International	Florida Bay Forever
Clean Water Action	Friends of Casco Bay
Climate Law & Policy Project	Gotham Whale
Climate Strong Islands Network	Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Coastal Conservation League	GreenLatinos
Colorado Ocean Coalition	Hannah4Change
Conservation Law Foundation	Healthy Ocean Coalition
Conservation Voters of PA	Hispanic Access Foundation
Conservation Voters of South Carolina	Inland Ocean Coalition
CT League of Conservation Voters	Inland Ocean Coalition Alaska Chapter
Defenders of Wildlife	Inland Ocean Coalition Arizona Chapter

Inland Ocean Coalition Buffalo NY Chapter
Inland Ocean Coalition Central Texas
Chapter
Inland Ocean Coalition CSU Fort Collins
Chapter
Inland Ocean Coalition CU Boulder Chapter
Inland Ocean Coalition Great Lakes Chapter
Inland Ocean Coalition Illinois Chapter
Inland Ocean Coalition Montana Chapter
Inland Ocean Coalition North Texas Chapter
Inland Ocean Coalition University of
Michigan Chapter
Inland Ocean Coalition Washington DC
Chapter
Inland Ocean Coalition Wyoming Chapter
International Fund for Animal Welfare
International Marine Mammal Project of
Earth Island Institute
League of Conservation Voters
Lopez-Wagner Strategies
Marine Conservation Voters
Maine Council of Churches
Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy
Network
Marine Conservation Institute
Marine Mammal Alliance Nantucket
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Mystic Aquarium
National Aquarium
National Audubon Society
National Ocean Protection coalition
National Parks Conservation Association
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
NC League of Conservation Voters
New Mexico Wildlife Federation
NY4WHALES
Ocean Conservancy

Ocean Conservation Research
Ocean Defense Initiative
Ocean River Institute
Ocean Visions, Inc.
Oceana
Oceanic Preservation Society
Only One
Oregon League of Conservation Voters
Patagonia
Philadelphia Zoo
Restore America's Estuaries
Rivers Alliance of Connecticut
Sachamama
Sanctuary Education Advisory Specialists
SEAS
Save the Manatee Club
Save the Sound
Seattle Aquarium
Seven Circles Foundation
Shedd Aquarium
Sierra Club
Sierra Club National Marine Team
South Shore Audubon Society
Southern Environmental Law Center
Surfrider Foundation
Sylvia Earle Alliance / Mission Blue
TAO
The FREED Peoples
The Ocean Foundation
The Ocean Project
The Rachel Carson Council
The Rewilding Institute
The Whale Guitar Project
The Wilderness Society
The Years Project Inc.
Tropical Audubon Society
Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center
Waterkeeper Alliance

Wildlife Conservation Society
World Wildlife Fund