

The Honorable Frank LoBiondo
LOBIONDO FOR CONGRESS, INC.
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Dear Congressman LoBiondo:

It is our pleasure to inform you that the Board of Directors of Ocean Champions has voted unanimously to endorse you in your bid for re-election to the United States House of Representatives.

Ocean Champions is the only political organization dedicated to building champions for ocean conservation in Congress. Through direct contributions and independent expenditure campaigns we help those candidates who are willing to make conservation of our ocean and its wildlife one of their top legislative issues. Our goal is to create a political environment where protecting and restoring the oceans is a national priority.

Numerous studies from respected organizations have concluded that the health of our ocean and its wildlife are in deep trouble. Our ocean, coasts and bays and the Great Lakes provide jobs, food and other resources, recreation, and supports life itself – in the water and beyond. The good news is that there are solutions AND acting now can protect and restore our ocean and Great Lakes health.

As you well know, some of your colleagues in the 114th Congress have taken a decidedly anti-ocean stance, attacking clean water and clean air, fisheries conservation and the National Ocean Policy. Despite this, thanks to your leadership and that of other ocean champions, there have been a number of ocean successes, including the passage of the Ports States Measures to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. Please accept our many thanks for your efforts on this front!

As we begin looking forward to the 115th Congress, Ocean Champions is working aggressively to help create a larger cohort of Congressional ocean champions to help provide you and other ocean leaders broader support on the issues we all care about.

Several priorities are top-of-mind:

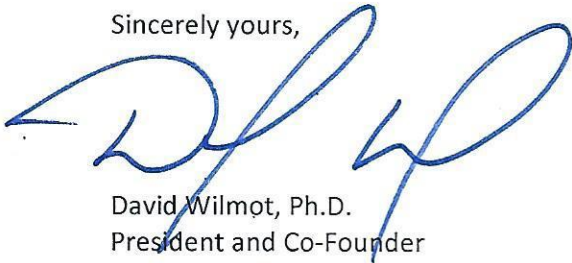
- **Protecting the conservation tenets of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA).** MSA continues to help end over-fishing and guide fisheries to sustainability. It must be maintained. It is important to continue ensuring that sufficient funds are available to support catch shares fisheries and participating fishermen.
- **Securing more robust monitoring and reporting across all fisheries** to provide scientists and policy-makers with accurate, up-to-date information on the status and location of various fish stocks.
- **Building broader support for ocean legislation**, including IUU fishing, seafood fraud, plastics, and a host of other issues.

- **Building increased support for coastal water quality issues** including harmful algal blooms and dead zones.
- **Establishing a permanent fund for ocean conservation and preservation.** Establishing a National Endowment for the Oceans remains a top priority, and is critical to properly funding a wide range of important ocean conservation efforts and programs.
- **Responding to the impacts on the oceans due to climate change,** including acidification and the impacts on spawning and other reproductive behaviors, and the movement of various fish stocks due to changes in water temperatures.
- **Continue working to ensure a robust NOAA budget.** Supporting adequate funding for NOAA programs remains a top priority.

Our oceans cannot wait, and will require the service of outstanding Congressmen like you. Your leadership on ocean health issues has been commendable. This leadership is exactly what we are looking for from ocean champions in Congress, and we are confident it will continue to grow. Given the importance of a healthy ocean to the U.S. economy, we know we can count on you to stand up for strong laws that will protect those resources.

Congratulations on your endorsement. We look forward to helping you achieve your goals in the campaign and in Congress.

Sincerely yours,



David Wilmot, Ph.D.
President and Co-Founder