

March 2, 2010

The Honorable Mark Begich
Russell Senate Office Building
Suite 114
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Begich,

On behalf of the Blue Climate Coalition, we wish to thank you for your efforts in advancing marine conservation as part of the solution to climate change.

We are thrilled that the Clean Energy Partnerships Act of 2009 recognizes that healthy coastal and marine ecosystems can help mitigate climate change.

The term "vegetated marine coastal habitats" will help ensure that the conservation and restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems, that store atmospheric carbon, is included in national climate change policy. Such important carbon storing ecosystems include mangrove forests, saltwater marshlands and seagrass meadows.

Thank you again for your interest in marine conservation and climate change issues. The Coalition looks forward to assisting you however we can.

Sincerely yours,

Signed by fifty-eight members of the Blue Climate Coalition:

- Marine Conservation Groups and Stakeholders -



Steven J. Lutz, Executive Director, **Blue Climate Solutions**, Miami, FL



Mark J. Spalding, Ph.D., President, **The Ocean Foundation**, Washington, DC



Katie Frohardt, Executive Director, **Fauna & Flora International**, Washington, DC



Jeff Beggins, President & Chief Executive Officer, **Seagrass Recovery**, Indian Rocks Beach, FL



Ed Tichenor, Director, **Palm Beach County Reef Rescue**, Boynton Beach, FL



Paul Clark, President, **Save Our Seas**, Hanalei, HI



Fernanda Kellogg, President, Michael Kowalski, Chairman and CEO, **Tiffany & Co. Foundation**, New York, NY



Michael Stocker, Executive Director, **Ocean Conservation and Research**, Forest Knolls, CA



Paul G. Johnson, State Programs & Policy Director, **REEF RELIEF**, Crawfordville, FL



Philippe Cousteau, Jr., Co-founder and CEO, **EarthEcho International**, Washington, DC



David Helvarg, President, **Blue Frontier Campaign**, Washington, D.C.



Jeff Pantukhoff, President & Founder, **The Whaleman Foundation**, Executive Director, Save the Whales Again! Campaign, Lahaina, HI



Peter Davis Krahenbuhl, Vice President & Co-founder, **Sustainable Travel International**, White Salmon, WA

Cartagena's Youth Declaration on Climate Change Group

Viviana Mourra, **Cartagena's Youth Declaration on Climate Change Group**, Cartagena, Colombia

Aquatic Research & Communication

William F. Loftus, Ph.D. **Aquatic Research & Communication (LLC)**, Homestead, FL



Farah Mukhida, Executive Director, **Anguilla National Trust**, Anguilla, British West Indies



Carl Safina, Ph.D., President, **Blue Ocean Institute**, East Norwich, NY



Mark J. Spalding, **St. Kitts Foundation**, Executive Director, Washington, DC



Jean W. Wiener, Director, **Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversite Marine (FoProBiM)**, Haiti



Mrs. Sam Fanshawe, Director, **Marine Conservation Society**, Herefordshire, United Kingdom



Darren Kindleysides, Director, **Australian Marine Conservation Society**, Australia

South Coast Citizens for Sustainable Development

Sue Harris, **South Coast Citizens for Sustainable Development**, Belize



Todd Steiner, Executive Director, **Turtle Island Restoration Network**, Forest Knolls, CA



Brad Nahill, Director & Co-Founder, **SEE Turtles**, Beaverton, OR



Alfredo Quarto, Executive Director, **Mangrove Action Project**, Port Angeles, WA



Louie Psihoyos, Executive Director, **Oceanic Preservation Society**, Boulder, CO

Economic Strategies

Hans & Isobel Hoegh-Guldberg, **Economic Strategies** - Applied Ecological and Cultural Economics, Oberon, Australia



Robert Wintner, Executive Director, **The Snorkel Bob Foundation**, Kihei, HI



Jed Livingstone, Vice President, **NAUI Worldwide** (National Association of Underwater Instructors), Tampa, FL



David E. Guggenheim, Ph.D., **1planet1ocean**, Washington, DC



Laura Kasa, Executive Director, **Save Our Shores**, Santa Cruz, CA



Dan Clark, President, **Cry of the Water**, Coral Springs, FL

Wallace J. Nichols, Ph.D., Founder & Co-Director, **OceanRevolution.org**, Davenport, CA

- U.S. Marine Scientists and Professionals -

Kevin Raskoff, Ph.D., Biology Department, Monterey Peninsula College, Monterey, CA

Daniel D. Benetti, Ph.D., Professor & Director of Aquaculture, Division of Marine Affairs and Policy, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS), University of Miami, Miami, FL

Andrew C. Baker, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, RSMAS, University of Miami, Pew Fellow in Marine Conservation (2008), Miami, FL

Paul Jones, Ph.D. Candidate, RSMAS, University of Miami, FL

Rachel Silverstein, Ph.D. Candidate, RSMAS, University of Miami, Miami, FL

Laura Macesic, Ph.D. Candidate, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL

Mark Mueller, M.S. Environmental Science & Policy, University of South Florida, Orlando, FL

Adrienne M.S. Correa, Ph.D., Florida International University, Department of Biological Sciences, North Miami, FL

Dorinda g. Dallmeyer, J.D., University of Georgia Environmental Ethics Certificate Program, Founders Memorial House, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

John R. Cannon, Ph.D., Conservation Biologist, Department of Biology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Chet F. Rakocinski, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Coastal Sciences University of Southern Mississippi, MS

Judith S. Weis, Ph.D., Rutgers University, Fellow: American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Chair: Biology Section of AAAS (2000), President: American Institute of Biological Sciences (2001), Board member: EPA Science Advisory Board, Author: Salt Marshes - A Natural and Unnatural History (2009), NJ

Gerald P. Rasmussen, Certified Wildlife Biologist, Regional Supervisor of Natural Resources, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Cortland, NY

Nancy Jacobson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Ithaca College, Department of Biology, Ithaca, NY

Alina M. Szmant, Ph.D., Coral Reef Research Group, UNCW-Center for Marine Science, Member: Tektite II missions (the first all-female aquanaut team) (1970), Recipient: U.S. Department of Interior Conservation Service Award, Wilmington, NC

Dr. Mark Hixon, Ph.D., National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, Fulbright Senior Scholar, Aldo Leopold Leadership Program Professor, Department of Zoology, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

Shawna Simpson, M.S., Aquatic Scientist, TX

Meredith Ferdie Muth, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia, VA

Christine Settar, M.S., University of the Virgin Islands, Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Service, Sea Grant Marine Outreach Program, VI

- International Marine Scientists and Professionals -

Matt Lybolt, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Queensland, Australia

Maria Fernanda Adame, Ph.D., University of Queensland, Australia

Sybill Jaschinski, Ph.D., Leibniz Institute for Marine Sciences, Kiel, Germany

Brigitta I. van Tussenbroek, Ph.D., Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología k, México

Roger Grace, Ph.D., Marine Biological Consultant, Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust trustee, NZ Underwater Association Life Member, Queen's Service Medal for public service (2005), New Zealand

Anusha Rajkaran, Ph.D. Candidate (Mangrove Ecology), Botany Department, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

Alicia Villamizar, Ph.D., Departamento de Estudios Ambientales, Biologist, Mangrove ecologist, Universidad Simón Bolívar, Baruta, Venezuela