



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Office of the General Counsel**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

JUN 9 2008

The Honorable Richard B. Cheney  
President of the Senate  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Bush Administration, I respectfully submit for congressional consideration and action a bill to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program Act. I also enclose a statement of purpose and need, a section-by-section analysis, and a document reflecting how the underlying statute would be modified by our proposed act.

In 1966, Congress enacted the National Sea Grant College Program Act, which created the National Sea Grant Program (the Program) with the mission to understand, manage, and conserve our nation's coastal resources. Since 1966, the Program has been reauthorized nine times, most recently in 2002. In the last 42 years, the Program has grown into a network of over 30 university-based programs, forming partnerships with government entities, universities, and citizens. Through research, education, and advisory service, the network increases the understanding, wise-use, and conservation of the Nation's ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. As part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Program is instrumental in helping NOAA achieve its mission in coastal communities throughout the United States and our territories.

The purpose of this bill is to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program Act through fiscal year 2015, and make several amendments that the Department of Commerce believes are necessary to effectively implement the objectives of the Program. The proposed changes will advance the Program's capability to address regional and national issues, enhance NOAA's ability to administer and provide guidance to the Program, and redefine the role of the National Sea Grant Review Panel.

The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress to enact this legislation. We have been advised by the Office of Management and Budget that there is no objection to the submission of this draft bill and that its enactment would be in accord with the program of the President. If you have any further questions, please contact me or Nathaniel F. Wienecke, Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at 202-482-3663.

Sincerely,

David K. Bowsher  
Acting General Counsel

Enclosures

Identical Letters Sent to:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
of Representatives  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,  
Science and Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
Vice Chair, Committee on Commerce,  
Science and Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, Jr.  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Don Young  
Ranking Member, Committee on  
Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515