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Congress of the United States
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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES
TERRORISM, UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS AND
CAPABILITIES

COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
CONGRESSIONAL INTERNET CAUCUS
NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION

March 2, 2004

U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy
1120 20th Street, NW
Suite 200 North
Washington, D.C. 20036

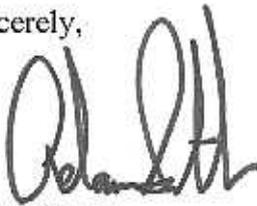
Dear Commissioners:

Our oceans are a public trust. Our stewardship of them is critical to our economy, our environment, and our future. I look forward to evaluating your recommendations as we look to improve our oceans management and ensure the sustainability of our marine resources.

There is great hope for the future, especially in the Pacific Northwest. While none of our country's eight regional councils has a perfect record, many of the management practices of the North Pacific Council have been cited as strong examples for other parts of the country. At the same time, like other regions, the Northwest will be dealing with ever-increasing population density along our coasts. For healthy ocean ecosystems capable of supporting productive and sustainable fish populations, we need to establish a national oceans policy, and the Northwest is in a position to take a leadership role in this new approach to oceans governance.

Again, I look forward to the Commission's recommendations to Congress. The thousands of jobs and families supported by fishing, our precious recreational opportunities and our coastal communities - not to mention the extraordinary marine environments themselves - depend on our commitment to making informed, scientific decisions about this important resource.

Sincerely,



Adam Smith
Member of Congress

CC: Washington Governor Gary Locke