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**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 20, 2012

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The Honorable Nancy Sutley  
Co-Chair, National Ocean Council  
Chairwoman, Council on Environmental Quality  
722 Jackson Place  
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable John P. Holdren  
Co-Chair, National Ocean Council  
Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy  
Executive Office of the President  
725 17th Street Room 5228  
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Chairwoman Sutley and Director Holdren:

On February 23, 2012, I wrote requesting that the public comment period on the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan be extended for an additional 90 days beyond the original February 27, 2012 deadline. It was disappointing to learn that, despite the National Ocean Policy's massive scope and sweeping impacts across the country, this request was refused and only 30 additional days were provided. I strongly urge you to reconsider and extend the deadline a full 90 days. The likelihood of deterring new investment and job creation is too great to rush the implementation of this questionable new federal bureaucracy. More than 15 agencies had over two years to construct this far-reaching policy, so it is certainly reasonable to allow more than just 75 days for comment by those whose communities and livelihoods could be harmed and negatively affected by the President's Executive Order.

In the February 23 letter, I also requested information about the funding and staffing used to develop the draft plan for implementing the National Ocean Policy, among other topics. I requested this information be provided by March 5, 2012, in advance of the Committee's March 7, 2012 oversight hearing on the Council of Environmental Quality's FY 2013 budget request. The hearing came and went without any of the requested information or any additional clarity of the funding sources for and budgetary impact of implementing the National Ocean Policy. I am still awaiting an answer as to when we can expect the requested information.

As stated at the March 7 hearing, “the National Ocean Policy appears to be a very large undertaking – one that will require a lot of resources from a lot of different agencies. Yet no agency seems to be requesting funding specifically for this purpose.” However, the draft implementation plan states at page 39 that you, as co-chairs of the National Ocean Council, and in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget, will be developing in 2012 “a timely annual interagency budget guidance memo on ocean priorities consistent with the goals and objectives of the National Ocean Policy.”

Please provide by March 26, 2012 a copy of any budget planning memoranda, drafts, and another other guidance related to the development or implementation of the National Ocean Policy that was provided to federal agencies or departments for developing their FY 2013 and FY 2014 budget requests.

I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Doc Hastings  
Chairman